

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. XVIII.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1851.

[GRATIS.]

THE SUPPLEMENTS AND DOUBLE NUMBERS OF THE "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

Our readers will have observed, that, in consequence of our desire to present them with a full account of all the news of the week, and with those pictorial illustrations of all current events of interest and importance which we continue to receive from every part of the civilized world, we have been compelled of late to issue a considerable number of Supplements and Double Numbers of this Journal. That course we shall continue to pursue whenever necessity arises; but, in order that our numerous and, we are grateful to say, our daily increasing subscribers may understand at what a pecuniary cost to ourselves we issue our gratuitous Supplements, and what an expenditure of capital is caused by the production of a Double Number, we present them with a few particulars of the manner in which we are not unwilling to tax ourselves, to render our Journal worthy of its popularity. They will see from the items what a cormorant the Government is, and what a tax it levies upon the diffusion of such information, amusement, and instruction as are conveyed through our columns. Upon our ordinary impression, of a Single Number, with an average circulation now amounting, in round numbers, to 100,000 copies, and sometimes, on occasions of great public interest, to considerably more even than that immense number, we pay for the excise duty upon paper alone, at 1½d. per lb. on the quantity consumed, no less than 120*l.* per week, or 6240*l.* per annum. The penny stamp on this large impression is upwards of 400*l.* per week, or 20,800*l.* per annum; while the advertisement duty on a sheet (in which the advertisements, for absolute want of space to receive them, are limited to a page) amounts to 20*l.* a week, or more than 1000*l.* per annum. In other words, an ordinary single paper pays to the Government 540*l.* a week, or nearly 28,000*l.* per annum—a sum more than sufficient to pay the salaries of all the principal Secretaries of State! When, in consequence of the pressure of Parliamentary and other news upon the space at our disposal, we present our readers with a Supplement, we expend, without receiving any other return than their good opinion and the continuance of their patronage—both of which we shall endeavour to merit a long continuance of—the following sums; namely, for paper duty on the extra half-sheet issued, 400*l.*; for the halfpenny stamp upon 100,000 copies, 4200*l.*. This is the Government share of this extra expenditure; but when to this we add the cost of paper and print, and the sums paid to artists and engravers—to say nothing of editorial and other expenditure—it will be seen, that a gratuitous Supplement of this Journal does not cost us far short of £1000 sterling! Our contributions to the National Exchequer for every Double Number which we publish may be easily calculated from the foregoing statements. Our object in entering into these particulars is not to make any boast of the extent of our sale, or of the extreme weight of the burden of taxation which is made to fall upon our shoulders. The sooner such a burden is removed, the better for us individually, and the better for the public of all classes, who are as directly interested in cheap political knowledge, as they are in cheap literature generally; but we have judged it fitting to exhibit these details to the popular apprehension, that our Subscribers may do us the justice to understand, that, although we may present them whenever necessity calls for gratuitous Supplements, we are compelled to be just to ourselves and to make a charge for our Double Numbers, whenever, under any unusual pressure, we are induced to publish them. It may be a curious fact to those interested in newspaper history—and to us it is a gratifying proof that our exertions are appreciated by the public—to state that a Double Number of our Journal always causes an extra sale, and that all the mechanical means at our command are scarcely adequate to supply papers with sufficient rapidity. In this latter respect we have, however, taken the necessary measures to prevent all further inconvenience and delay, and to provide our Subscribers, even in remote parts of the United Kingdom, with copies early on the Saturday morning. Success has its embarrassments as well as failure; and not the least of those attending the unprecedented success of this Journal has been the difficulty of making supply keep pace with demand. We trust, however, that we have finally conquered this difficulty, and that for the future our readers will have no occasion to complain in this respect.

BUDGETS OF THE HALF-CENTURY.

The explanation of the financial condition of the country given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday, supplies an appropriate occasion for laying before our readers a brief notice of some peculiarities in our taxation for the last fifty years. Every year such an explanation is given by the same officer, or by the first Lord of the Treasury; it is called the Budget, and may be traced back to the very earliest periods of our history, when the Kings asked the barons, prelates, knights, and burgesses, in Parliament assembled, for subsidies to carry on a war or marry their children. Being a mere explanation made in the House of Commons, limited by the views of the expounder, it is liable, when it comes to the public knowledge, to all the mistakes and imperfections of speeches reported in the newspapers, and it rarely or ever embraces the whole subject. The Budget wants, as an exposition of the national finances, both authority and completeness. In the present article, therefore, we have had recourse to official documents and books of repute, in addition to the budgets, to fill up our outline.

At the beginning of the century the nation was plunged in war, and, on the 1st of January, 1800, was burdened with a National Debt of 464,101,207*l.*, the interest of which was 17,381,561*l.* At that period money was borrowed year after year to meet the national expenditure; and, far from ever having a surplus of revenue, there was not a year between 1793 (when the interest of the debt was 9,437,822*l.*) and 1816 (when it reached its maximum of 32,338,751*l.*) that the annual charge was not increased. In 1798, the increase (greater than in any other year) was no less than 3,314,902*l.*, representing, at five per cent., a capital of 66,298,040*l.* Threefold and one-half was the annual charge for the debt increased by the imprudent statesman who carried on the war against France.

In 1801, Mr. Pitt, though he had recently resigned office, brought forward the Budget; and though in 1803, he performed the same office, adopting Mr. Addington's plans, the former was the last of the numerous financial expositions of his own measures in his long ministerial career. The Customs and Excise were estimated at 19,390,867*l.*, stamps at 3,049,844*l.*, assessed taxes and property-tax at 99,857,134*l.*, Post-office at 843,978*l.*, and miscellaneous at 1,031,325*l.*, making a total of 34,113,146*l.* of taxes levied on the people. The loans in the year amounted to 27,305,146*l.*, making a total of money raised for the public service of 61,418,417*l.*

The Customs duties were chiefly levied on sugar, tobacco, tea, foreign and plantation spirits, wine, timber, &c.; a very large number of articles were subject to duties yielding comparatively small sums. The Excise duties were on home-made spirits, malt, beer, paper, starch, glass, soap, candles, vinegar, printed cottons, &c. There were a great number of assessed taxes, on horses, dogs, hair-powder, carriages, &c., including a property-tax. To raise the additional sum required to pay the interest on the money borrowed in the year—then the chief subsequently collected—the taxes on tea, paper, printed cottons, timber, pepper, raisins, and lead, with the stamp duties on bills, notes, sea-policies, and deeds, were augmented, and a new duty was levied on horses. The whole amount of the new taxes levied was 1,720,000*l.* The financiers had then a difficulty in deciding what taxes should be increased or imposed, as they have now a difficulty in deciding which shall be reduced or abolished.

Exclusive of the cost of collecting the revenue in 1801, the expenditure was—Navy, 12,666,135*l.*; Army, 17,529,947*l.*; Ordnance, 2,107,186*l.*; Civil List, 1,138,800*l.*; Miscellaneous sources, 1,745,917*l.*; Loans and subsidies to foreign powers, 690,114*l.*; Miscellaneous expenses, 694,396*l.*; total cost of services, 41,385,554*l.*; Interest on National Debt, funded and unfunded, 19,945,624*l.*, making a total expenditure in 1801 of 61,329,170*l.* On the 1st of October in that year the preliminaries of peace were signed, and the definitive treaty was subsequently concluded. In 1802, consequently, the public expenditure was reduced to 49,242,907*l.*, and in 1803, to 48,998,230*l.* A remission of taxation ensued. A notice was given, in the latter end of 1801, of a motion by an independent member to repeal the income-tax; and in 1802, the Minister, without waiting for the attack, repealed it. The additional tax imposed the year before on paper was found so injurious to the book trade, that it was given up. But, in lieu of the taxes repealed, the higher duties were levied on malt and beer, on exports and imports, and the assessed taxes were augmented, the increase being estimated at 4,000,000*l.* The taxes given up yielded 5,800,000*l.*, viz. income-tax, 6,710,572*l.*; and paper duties, calculated at 132,000*l.*; but the produce of the remaining taxes was so much augmented, that the amount levied on the people was 36,368,149*l.*, or 2,255,000*l.* more than in 1801. Though taxes were remitted to no less a sum than 14,028,254*l.*, yet, by the higher duties were levied on malt and beer, on exports and imports, and the assessed taxes were augmented, the increase being estimated at 4,000,000*l.* The taxes given up yielded 5,800,000*l.*, viz. income-tax, 6,710,572*l.*; and paper duties, calculated at 132,000*l.*; but the produce of the remaining taxes was so much augmented, that the amount levied on the people was 36,368,149*l.*, or 2,255,000*l.* more than in 1801.

Unfortunately the peace was very brief, and he had next year to imitate his predecessor, Mr. Pitt, and come forward with a Budget of increased expense and increased taxation. At the end of April 1803, war again ensued between France and England; Mr. Addington renewed the property-tax in his second Budget, making it 1*l.* in the pound on rent, 9*l.* in the pound in England, and 6*l.* in Scotland on the tenants; 5 per cent. on the income of all trades and professions, and on the dividends of the public funds; he also imposed an increase of 20 per cent. in the duty on sugar, and an increase of 12½ per cent. in the duties on all other imports except cotton, wool, tea, and wine; on exports he imposed a duty of 1 per cent. and 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, as the articles were exported to Europe or other parts of the world; and, further, he imposed a national duty on iron, on tea of 13 and 45 per cent. *ad valorem*, as the teas were coarse or fine; on wine 10s. per pipe, on spirits 50 per cent. of the existing duties, and on malt 2s. a bushel. The new taxes were calculated to yield in a whole year 12,500,000*l.*; but, as they only came into operation in a part of 1803, their produce for that year was estimated at 4,500,000*l.*; and to meet the expense of the necessary armaments, a loan of 19,000,000*l.* in addition was negotiated. Further to pay the interest on the loan, and to meet still more some Customs duties, gained something by the consolidation of the assessed taxes, altered and increased the stamp duties on receipts, and so obtained 690,000*l.* By the end of the year he had provided for an additional annual revenue in future of upwards of 13,000,000*l.*, and increased the charge for the debt by 844,276*l.* It was then 20,699,864*l.* In 1804, accordingly, the sum levied on the people by Mr. Addington's third Budget was 46,176,429*l.*; a loan was contracted of 14,570,733*l.*, making the whole sum raised for the service of the year 60,747,253*l.* Thus the Government went on from year to year, never making a hearty attempt to raise a sufficient revenue to pay the expense of the year, though Mr. Addington's Budgets were not so faulty in this respect as those of Mr. Pitt.

In 1806, Lord Henry Petty, the present Marquis of Lansdowne, the descendant of a family renowned in our financial history, was Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was then a very young man, and was characterised in a celebrated satirical poem of the time, called "All the Talents," as a "Dancing Chancellor." He professed to imitate Mr. Addington, and to raise the chief part of the necessary expense of the year by the taxes of the year. By his celebrated Budget he raised the income-tax and property-tax to 10 per cent. on all incomes above 50*l.*; increased the duty on sugar 2s. per cwt.; laid a duty on pig iron of 40s. per ton; and levied a tax on appraisements. But even this large increase of taxation was insufficient to meet the enormous expense; and the Budget of 1806, like preceding budgets, announced a loan of 20,000,000*l.*

In this career the Government continued till the year 1816. Every year the Budget announced that more and more money was to be raised by taxes to meet current expenses, that more and more was borrowed, and more and more taxes were fixed on posterity to pay the interest of the loans. The largest sum raised from the people by taxes in any one year was 72,210,512*l.*, in 1815; but, in 1813, in addition to 69,748,363*l.* obtained by taxes, Government borrowed 39,649,282*l.*, raising no less than 108,397,645*l.*, the largest sum ever raised in any one year. The greatest actual expenditure, however, was in 1814—106,832,260*l.* The interest of the debt, funded and unfunded, rose to its highest point in 1816, and was then 32,338,751*l.* Through most of these financial operations, the Budgets were brought forward by Mr. Vanittart, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is an anomaly in the economical history of mankind, that such enormous burdens were continually augmented without breaking down the nation; but such was the elasticity then imparted to our resources by the steam-engine and the cotton manufacture, that it surmounted the enormous pressure of a ruinous financial system.

With 1816, on the establishment of peace, a new course was entered on and reductions began. War taxes to the amount of 1,155,576*l.* had expired in 1814 and 1815; but 1816 was the first year from 1793, or of twenty-two years, when only a small sum, 514,059*l.* was added to the debt, to provide for outstanding Exchequer bills. In the following fifteen years nothing was added to the debt, though loans were continually contracted, to a sum of 100,000,000*l.* of the Sinking Fund to reduce it. We borrowed money to pay the debt, and continually lost by the transaction. In 1816, from what Lord Castlereagh called an ignorant impatience of taxation, but at which we feel no surprise when we learn that, in the City of London alone, 11,000 surcharges had been made in the property-tax, 3000 of which were disallowed, the Minister of Commerce, by a vote of the House of Commons, to resign that tax, and they voluntarily gave up the war-malt tax and other tridling war taxes, making a reduction of taxation in that year of 17,547,355*l.* At the same time they added 3,102,302*l.* to other taxes.

The process of reduction has continued to our day, with occasional interruptions. The impatience of taxation has never since ceased; rarely has a tax been added, but every year the Government has been urged on Ministers by the indefatigable Mr. Hume, who for nearly forty years has laboured most assiduously in the service of the

people; but the Ministers have never ceased to spend as much as they could, and were always to levy from the people. Sometimes our philanthropy or the urgent necessity of Ireland has led the public to approve of increasing the debt. Unfortunately, no settled, well-regulated system of finance has been introduced and steadily carried out by our financiers. In all their schemes they have been defeated by the sharp-sightedness of individual interest; and, at the end of thirty-four years, though the rate of interest has been two or three times reduced, the charge for the National Debt has undergone no increase or diminution. In 1793 the capital was 261,735,059*l.*; interest or annual charge, 3,487,822*l.* At its highest point it was 885,186,323*l.*; interest, 32,338,751*l.* The annual charge was at its minimum in 1825—28,000,287*l.* In the present year it is nearly the same—28,091,598*l.* The capital of the debt last year (the account for the present year is not yet published) was 773,168,316*l.* Subsequent to 1825 the charge increased, and was, in 1844, 30,495,459*l.*, principally caused by purchasing the freedom of the slaves, and by sundry defalcations of the revenue. Without an equally strong reason, we have continued the vice of our predecessors. The ruinous system of borrowing is not yet half enough detested nor half enough condemned.

Without going into details of our Budgets, which would more emphatically show the inconsistencies of our financial system, and the poor expedients of our hand-to-mouth Chancellors (a tax repealed one year being re-imposed the next), we must now give a brief outline of the principal Budgets, and of the changes in taxation, since 1816. In 1819, Mr. Vanittart being Chancellor of the Exchequer, new taxes on foreign wool, on malt (reduced in 1816), &c., were imposed, to the extent of 3,000,000*l.* and upwards. And, by trifling alterations increased the taxes too in 1824 and 1825, and in 1831 a tax was placed on steam-boat passengers, with other taxes, amounting to 600,000*l.* In 1840 a percentage addition was imposed, when Sir Francis Baring being Chancellor of the Exchequer, asked for a Budget, according to Sir R. Peel, on customs, excise, and assessed taxes, calculated to yield upwards of 29,000,000*l.*, which was not found to answer the end proposed. In 1842, therefore, to meet continued deficiencies, and allow of improvement in our commercial regulations, Sir Robert Peel, in his famous Budget of 1842, re-imposed a property and income-tax. These are the principal taxes imposed or increased, all being renewals of taxes previously abolished, except that on passengers. Altogether, the increase of taxation between 1816 and the present time was calculated at something more than 13,000,000*l.*

In 1816, changes in the duties and taxes reduced them 290,000*l.*; and, in 1821, 470,000*l.* In 1822, a reduction of the malt-tax—imposed in 1819—and other changes diminished taxation 2,130,000*l.* In 1823, Mr. (so called) Prosperity Robinson (now Earl of Ripon) was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and announced with a prodigious flourish to Parliament in his famous Budget an extremely large revenue, the consequence of a great increase of trade and of one or two abundant harvests. The surplus was 7,147,414*l.*; 5,000,000*l.* was applied to reduce the debt; and taxes were removed to the amount of 4,185,734*l.*; amongst others, the salt-tax was lowered from 16s. to 2s. per bushel; and, in 1825, the tax was wholly abolished. In 1824, Customs and stamp duties were abolished 1,801,233*l.* In the following year, the duties on hemp, coffee, wine, spirits, iron, &c., were reduced, which, together with taxes that expired in 1825, made the calculated reduction of taxation 3,775,229*l.* In 1830, Mr. Goulburn being the author of the Budget, the beer-tax and the leather-tax, previously much reduced, were abolished, and relief altogether afforded to the calculated extent of 4,070,742*l.*

In 1831, when the Whigs, with Lord Althorp for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, began their reforms, reductions of duty on tobacco, newspapers, coals, cotton, glass, &c., amounting to 1,588,052*l.*, took place. In 1832, Mr. Peel's Budget was another year of reduction; the duty on soap was reduced, that on files abolished, and other reductions made, amounting to 1,532,128*l.* In 1834 the house-tax was got rid of, and 2,064,516*l.*, altogether struck off. In 1839 the great change was made in the charge for letters, which, with other changes, made a reduction in taxation of 1,063,258*l.* In 1842, to counterbalance the property-tax, Sir Robert Peel remitted customs and other duties to the amount of 1,596,366*l.*; and, in 1843, there was a great reduction of the duties on glass, the excise duties on glass were abolished and other changes, extending relief to 4,535,251*l.*

The subsequent alterations, so far as taxation is concerned, are not important. The duties on bricks have been abolished, and other minor changes have been made; but the principle so extensively acted on by Sir Robert Peel, in 1842, and in 1845, of relieving trade from restriction, has been carried further, and as he abolished the Corn-Laws, his successors in office have abolished the greater portion of the Navigation Laws.

In all, according to Mr. Porter's tables, since 1816, not including that year, the reduction of taxation has amounted to 26,000,000*l.*; subtracting from which the 13,000,000*l.* added, it appears that the tax-payers have been relieved since 1816 to the extent of 13,000,000*l.* Including that year, the reduction of taxation since the termination of the war amounts to about 40,000,000*l.* The conclusion which glares on us from this statement is anything but favourable to the budgets of successive Chancellors, and to our financial management. In thirty-four years of peace the charge for the debt has been reduced only by 4,847,153*l.*, or at the rate of 14*l.* 5*d.* per annum; and only one-third of the annual charge for the management of the debt, 94,925*l.* In the same period taxation has been reduced something less than 1,300,000*l.* per annum. At the same time, such is the natural increase of population and of wealth, that the taxes which remain now produce as much (32,810,000*l.*) as was produced by the numerous taxes of 1805; and within 20,000,000*l.* of the very largest sum that was raised by our extensive taxation which hardly spared any article of subsistence or luxury in any period of our war. The abolition of a tax is the removal of a restriction on industry; and the revenue has become productive in proportion as restrictions have been removed by the abolition of taxation.

The period under review was conspicuous for wonderful improvements in all the productive arts. Wealth increased faster than population; but such was the effect of the increase of taxation, and the wages of labour, far from rising equivalently to the rise in the price of the necessities of life in the course of the war, could only command two-thirds of the quantity of food in 1800 which they commanded in 1790. Never since, till now, have wages risen, except in momentary spurts, to their level in 1790. For the bulk of the people, the effect of exorbitant taxation is more afflicting than pestilence and storms. Notwithstanding, however, the vast increase of taxation between 1793 and 1816, and notwithstanding all the reductions since, the community has not been more satisfied, and scarcely more prosperous since 1816, than during the war. The fatal enactment of the Corn-Law in 1815, the gift of a Tory Budget, confining our population to the estates of a few landowners for food, was probably more disastrous, from that time till 1849, than the extravagance of our financiers, and more ruinous than the desolation of war. Its temporary evils are even obliterated by the hand of peaceful industry; but when that is chained, the spring of all prosperity ceases to work. Only since the Corn-Law was abolished, have the people begun to feel and to appreciate the advantages of a diminished taxation. Let us add, in conclusion, that the 50,000,000*l.* now on the average annually raised for the service of the State, notwithstanding the vast increase of taxation between 1793 and 1816, and notwithstanding all the reductions since, the community has not been more satisfied, and scarcely more prosperous since 1816, than during the war. 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(Continued on page 150.)

THE MANUFACTURE OF STEEL PENS IN BIRMINGHAM.

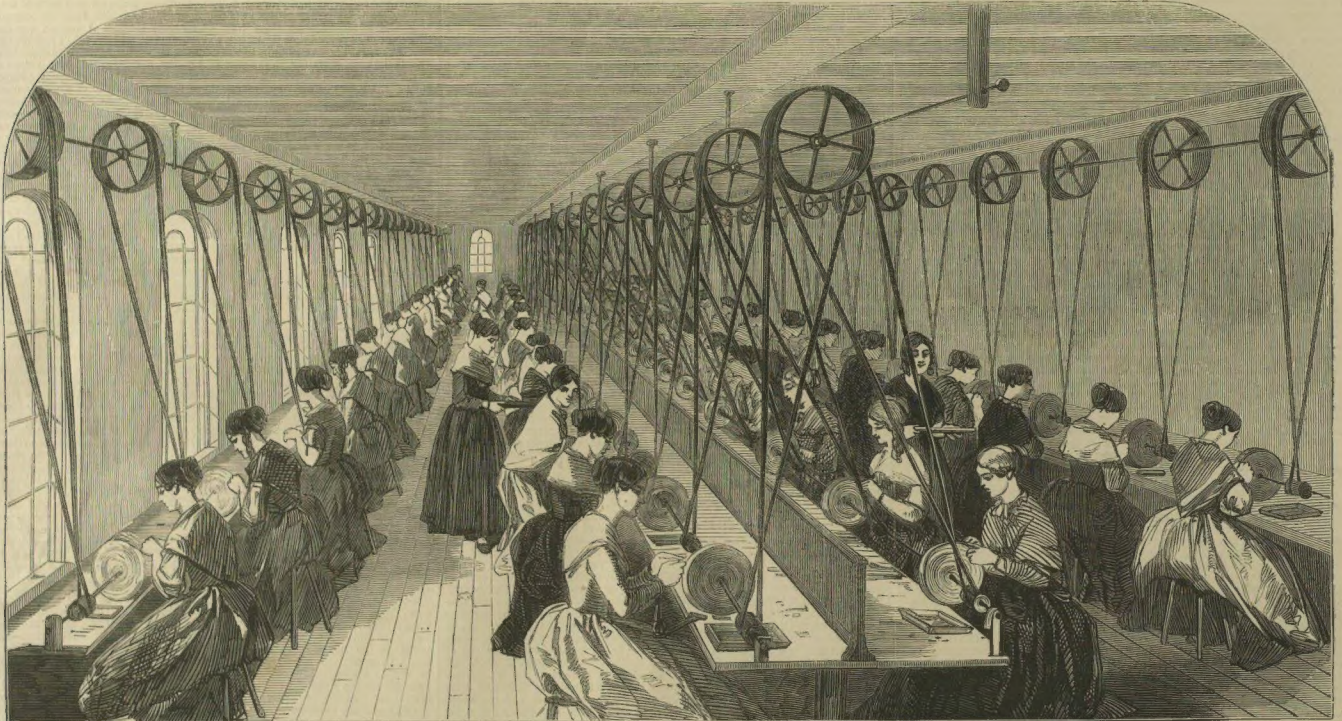
BIRMINGHAM, the "toy-shop of the world," is famous for the production of a great variety of useful and ornamental articles in iron, brass, steel, silver, and gold, but few of them in these days are of more interest than the novel but highly important manufacture of Steel Pens; and a brief account of a visit to the largest manufactory of steel pens in that town, or in the world (for Birmingham supplies Europe, Asia, and America with these new implements of writing), will enable the reader to understand the magnitude of the operations, and the various processes through which a piece of steel passes before it becomes that flexible instrument which has superseded the quill as the recorder of our wants, our business, and our affections.

The manufactory from which our illustrations are taken is that of Messrs. Hinks, Wells, and Co. A few years ago it consisted of a comparatively small house on one side of the street. Now the establishment has outgrown its original limits, and has become an immense manufactory, giving employment to 564 hands, consuming $\frac{2}{3}$ tons of steel per week, turning out 25,000 gross of pens weekly, or 1,820,000 gross in a year, and, consequently, contributing in no inconsiderable degree to promote the interchange of ideas, whether literary, commercial, or social, throughout the civilised world.

If our readers will accompany us in a visit to this manufactory, we shall trace the progress of the pen from the raw material to the finished article, and so give them an idea of the very interesting operations. Entering a shed at the extremity of the larger pile of buildings, we are introduced to the metal in its crude state. This consists of the best quality of cast steel, made from Swedish iron, its granular structure dense and compact. It is now in sheets $\frac{1}{4}$ foot long by 18 inches wide, which sheets are clipped across into lengths from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. These strips are packed into cast metal boxes, and placed on what is technically called a "muffle," or large stone oven, heated to a white heat: there the process of annealing takes place. After twelve hours of this roasting, the strips are placed in revolving barrels, where, by the friction of metallic particles, the scales caused by the annealing and the rough edges are removed. They are now ready for the rolling mill. The rollers consist of metal cylinders revolving upon each other. A man and boy attend at each. The first introduces the strip of steel between the opposing surfaces, and the boy pulls it out, considerably attenuated. From the first pair of rollers it passes through several others, until it finally assumes the requisite tenacity. Such is the pressure employed, that the steel, in passing through, becomes hotter than it is sometimes convenient for unpractised hands to touch. The strip of steel is now precisely the thickness of a pen, is quite flexible, and has increased in length from 18 inches to $\frac{1}{4}$ feet.



ROLLING THE STEEL FOR PENS.



THE PEN GRINDING ROOM.



BRONZING STEEL PENS.

It is now ready for the "cutting-out room," where the pen first begins to assume a form. Along this room a number of women are seated at benches, cutting out, by the aid of hand-presses, the future pen from the ribbon of steel. This is done with great rapidity, the average product of a good hand being 200 gross, or 25,000, per day of ten hours. Two pens are cut out of the width of the steel—the broad part to form the tube, and the points so cutting into each other as to leave the least possible amount of waste.

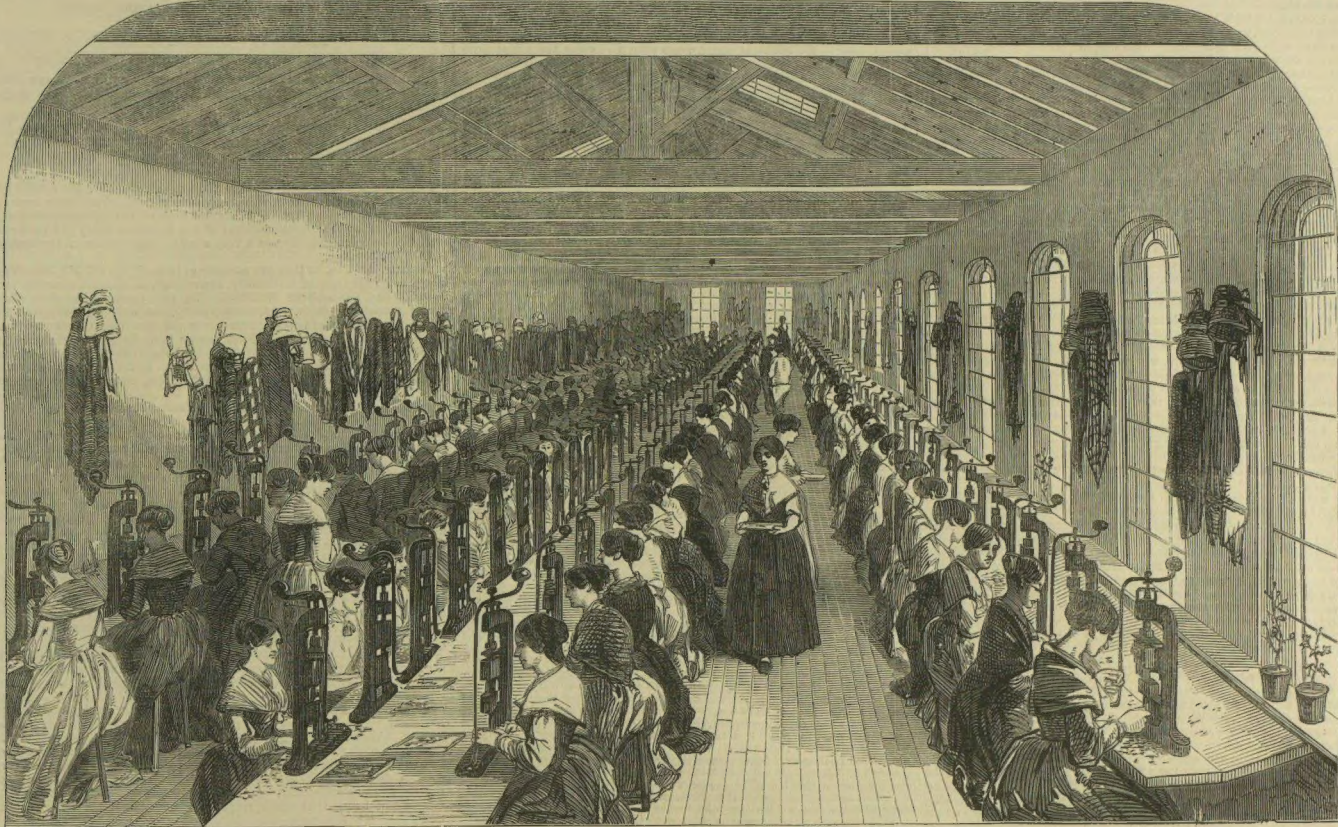
From this room the "blanks" are taken to be pierced. The flat "blanks" are placed separately on a steel die, and, by a half circular action of a lever turning an upright screw, a fine tool is pressed upon the steel, and forms the delicate centre perforation, and the side slits which give flexibility to the pen.

All this time the metal is soft, bending in the fingers like a piece of lead. It becomes necessary, however, that it should be rendered still softer. The pens are consequently placed in the heated oven, and a second time annealed. Proceeding with these softened pens to the "marking-room," the ear of the visitor is assailed by a continuous volley of sharp heavy sounds. An animated scene presents itself. Upon each side and down the middle of the room are arranged a multitude of young women at work, each of whom raises a weight by the action of the foot, and suddenly allows it to fall on the pen. The rapidity of this process is equal to that of cutting out the blanks, each girl marking many thousands of pens in the day. When it leaves the hand of this operator, the back of the pen is stamped either with the name of a retail dealer, at home or abroad, a national emblem, a piece of questionable heraldry, or the representation of some notability, foreign or domestic, according to the fashion of the day. The distinctive marks in this manufactory number about 8000.

The next process is the "raising." Until now the pen is flat; and by being placed in a groove, and a convex tool dropped upon it, forcing it into the groove, it is bent into a tube of the required shape.

Upon the perfection of the slit of course depends the value of the pen. Those who recollect the difficulty experienced in getting a perfect slit in a quill pen, can understand how much less easy it is to prevent the gaping of a metallic substance. The first preparatory process after the pens leave the raising-room, is to return them once more to the muffle, into which they are placed in small iron boxes with lids, and heated to a white heat. They are then drawn out and suddenly thrown into a large tank of oil, where by the chemical action of the liquid on the steel the pens attain a brittleness that makes them crumble to pieces when pressed between the fingers. After being cleaner from the oil they are tempered, or brought back to the condition of softness and elasticity which they are henceforth to retain. This is done by placing them in a cylindrical vessel, open at one end and turned over a fire, somewhat after the fashion in which coffee is roasted. The action of the heat gradually changes the colour of the pens, first from a dull grey to a pale straw colour, next to a brown or bronze, and then to blue.

Still the pens are rough, and covered with small metallic particles. To remove this roughness, they are placed in large tin cans, with a small



THE SLITTING ROOM FOR PENS.

quantity of sawdust, &c. These cans lie horizontally on a wooden frame, and are made to revolve by steam power, the pens rubbing against each other, and so cleansing themselves. From this process of "scouring," they are taken to the "grinding-room." This is also an animated and interesting scene, from the great number of young women employed, the apparent complexity of the machinery, and the busy regularity with which the work is performed. Each individual pen of the 362,080,000 which are annually turned out of this establishment undergoes the process of grinding, which employs one-fourth of the entire number of hands engaged in the manufactory. If the reader will examine his steel pen before he uses it, he will perceive that the back, above the point, is ground in two different directions—first from the tube to the point, and then across—the quality of the pen very much depending upon the grinding. We have previously referred to the difficulty of getting a close slit in a quill pen. The grinding serves the same purpose as the scraping the back of the quill did, as, by weakening a certain part of the metal, the point where the slit is made has a tendency to cohere, and so to form a good pen. The pen is simply caught up by a pair of nippers, and held on a revolving "bob," and so ground.

The pens are now taken to the "slitting-room," which is filled, like the other rooms we have visited, by girls and women, all busy and silent. The only sound is the click of the tool with which the slit is made. The work is very light, for the pen is simply placed on a press, and the handle being pulled, a sharp steel tool descends, and the pens are perfect. To secure uniformity of quality, the pens are now looked over, by the points being pressed against a small piece of bone placed on the thumb, and they are then thrown into heaps according to their quality of good, bad, or indifferent. They are next varnished with a solution of gum, and are ready for affixing to cards, or boxing, the latter mode of packing being almost universally adopted. In this final stage, twenty sets of little nimble fingers weigh the pens into grosses, shake them into handsome little paper boxes, and finally seal them up with the smart label which records their quality, and the real or assumed "whereabouts" of their manufacture.

Thus far the process of pen-making in this manufactory does not differ from that employed in other manufactories. There is, however, one peculiarity in the process which deserves to be mentioned, namely, the invention of a machine, or tool, by which three perforations are made in a pen at one action of the press. By this process, also, the fanciful designs into which the side slits are thrown are produced by the same action of the press which makes the centre slit. It is not difficult to perceive, that, with such mechanical appliances, production will soon be enormously increased; and if it is, it will no more than keep pace with the extraordinary demand which is a necessary consequence of excellence combined with cheapness.

Although the price of steel pens has fallen from eight shillings a gross in 1830 to sixpence a gross in 1851, the wages have improved, nominally and really, above twenty-five per cent., in consequence of the mechanical facilities of production. Some of the more skilled workmen get high wages. The tool-makers especially are remarkably well paid. The younger girls earn from 5s. to 7s. a week; the older, 12s. and 14s. Even at work they are generally well dressed; and to purchase their finery, they club together their spare pence, and draw a cheque weekly. The men have also their clubs, and a circle in which they visit each others houses at stated intervals, the rules providing for the strictest temperance and good behaviour. To enable them to obtain medical relief when necessary, a fund amounting to £30 per annum is subscribed to the hospitals, by which they obtain out and in-patient tickets. For this purpose the men subscribe 6d. a month, and the girls 1d. In all these prudential arrangements they are zealously seconded by their employers.

To these provisions for health and comfort is added another fund, expended annually on a "gipsy party" to some of the beautiful rural spots in the neighbourhood of Birmingham. The girls and women pay one penny a week for twelve months towards it, and the men twopence a week. On the last occasion, the party mustered no less than 350 people. They started from Birmingham at seven o'clock on a fine summer morning to Hagley and the Clent Hills, to pass the day. They filled forty-five cars, which were gaily ornamented with banners and devices, and they were accompanied by a band of music. The whole of the party breakfasted in the open air, in tents, at the Hagley Arms; then walked in procession up to the Clent Hills; and, having enjoyed the beautiful scenery—commanding a view into Wales—got up quadrilles and other country dances, which, with other amusements, were continued until dinner-time. The party dined in tents in the open air, the band playing popular airs during the whole time. They returned early in the evening, without an accident occurring to mar the general enjoyment. These gipsy parties have lately become exceedingly popular among the working-classes in Birmingham, and there is scarcely a trade in the town which does not have its annual festival of this kind.

It may be stated, in conclusion, that the total number of hands employed in the steel pen manufactory in Birmingham is estimated at upwards of 2000; of whom more than one-half are employed by the firm whose operations we have just described, and by the equally celebrated house of Joseph Gillott and Co. The manufactory owes much of its

present prosperity to the enterprise and perseverance of the last-named gentleman.

A STORY OF THE PRESENT DAY.

BY AUGUSTUS MAYHEW,

ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF "THE GREATEST PLAGUE OF LIFE," "HOW TO GET MARRIED," ETC., ETC.

(Continued from page 127.)

CHAPTER IV.

A JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF WORK.

ACCORDING to all accounts, this twisting twirling world of ours is a very strange sort of place after all—as if the face of the earth was a double one, weeping and laughing at the same time, like a spoiled child. It seems to be of the shot silk genus; for look at it one way it appears dark and gloomy, and yet only view it in a proper light, and all is bright and sparkling again. In fact it is full of whims and fancies; now frowning and cufing, then smiling and petting, and no more to be trusted than a pretty drawing-room miss, who can scarcely lock her desk for love-tokens, and has no more pity for her victims than a butcher has for a pet lamb.

In the morning, as you walk along the streets, you are shuffling your feet, your hands are buried deep in your pockets, your forehead is wrinkled like a top-boot, and you look as bitter as a friend's advice. Every man you meet is a scoundrel, every saying has a double meaning, every look is suspicious. The sun is too hot, this wine is too cold. You hate the rose for its thorns, and the bee for its sting. The world looks as black as a hearse horse. Presently, whilst you are yet grumbling, some one takes you by the button and whispers in your ear a few magical words. In an instant life is changed; the feet move like a dancer's; the fingers are suppled like castanets, the forehead is smooth as a billiard ball, and you are smiling and happy as a school-boy at a pantomime. You shake hands till your glove bursts, and your head is on the nod like a plaster mandarin. You buy a rose for your button-hole, and in the evening do nothing but laugh and sing, and go to bed happy, proud, and contented, as a Lord Mayor on the day of his election.

We are almost as foolish in our day as old Democritus was in his. He put out his eyes, that he might study nature better. It is true we keep ours, but we might as well be without, we make such little use of them.

Kitty, who but an hour or two since had looked as wretched as a school-girl in love, was now walking along the streets as contented and happy as a page in new livery. As she tripped along, her eyes were bright as dewdrops in the sunshine; and a laugh was ready to burst from her lips the first chance that offered. She had determined, on her way to Tim Bradley's, to visit the flower-man, and offer her services as one of the "five hundred." She would make him an offer. It was but fair that she should work for him for nothing until she had learnt the business; and then, when all they would be happy. It wasn't like staymaking, she was sure—something told her it wasn't. My word! she would work hard—she would! One thing she was determined on—with the very first money she earned, that room of theirs should be made tidy and clean. Poor old man, he never stirred out, and ought at least to be comfortable. After that, she would buy him a good warm suit of clothes, his chest was so bad in the winter. The only doubt she had was, whether it should be a blue coat and gold buttons, or a brown wrapper all over pockets. However, there was plenty of time to think over it. Then on the Sundays, too! how they would enjoy themselves! They would pack up their dinner in a nice white basket she intended buying; and be off to the fields to eat it on the grass, just as in the olden time; and whilst the old man was chatting with Tim Bradley under the cool shade of the trees, she'd be off with the little ones, blackberry-hunting, or looking for wild flowers to take home with them. Ah! there'd be no complaining then, she'd warrant.

At last the "Temple of Fashion" was in sight. A small admiring crowd was still in front of it, but it was not half as large as on the day before. But, no sooner did the poor girl see the people, than, imagining they were all flower-workers, bound on the same errand as herself, she set to running, and never stopped till she had reached the stall. But, now she was there, her courage failed her. She didn't dare to ask the gentleman whilst he was so busy; he might get angry, and refuse her the work. So she stood looking on like the rest, watching a proper time to speak.

It seemed as if the people would never go away. She had been there at least half an hour, and yet the crowd was no less. The ladies took so long to strike their bargains, that, even if two or three did drop off, their places were soon filled up again by the passers-by.

There was one old lady, with a wicker basket big enough to hold Falstaff, that Kitty lost all patience with. She was the only one left out of all the purchasers, and the little girl was biting her fingers with anxiety. Yet that old lady wouldn't stir, but kept taking up the china lambs and Wedgewood cats just as if she did it on purpose.

"What do you want for this thing?" she asked, taking up an inkstand round which a gilt parrot had built its nest. The price was

marked on it, but still she asked "What's the price of this thing?" to make the proprietor fancy she didn't want it much.

"Well, as times is hard, miss," answered the man, "I'll take thrupence. If I wasn't selling off quick to meet a bill o' mine, I couldn't do it."

"Threepence!" cried the lady, looking at the "thing" with disgust; "I'll give you twopenny halfpenny; and she put it down as if she didn't care whether she bought or not."

"Wouldn't pay for the gold on it, ma'am," answered the man. "Sold one to the Emperor of Japan a year ago, for double the money."

"Oh, dear! oh, dear!" thought Kitty; "I wish she would make haste. The old lady tried to look as if she was going away in a hurry. The man knew better, though; and, true enough, she put her head round the side of the stall, and cried "Twopenny three-farthings."

"If it only wanted five minutes to the end o' the world I couldn't do it, miss," answered the man coolly.

"Give it here, then," she said snappishly, "and don't 'miss' me."

Kitty's heart beat like a watch as she entered the tent. The proprietor was a very imposing man, and wore a beautiful red-striped satin waistcoat, with his shirt-collar à la poète, and his silk neck-tie passed through a gold ring. He was immensely stout, and, as the day was warm, his face looked shiny, as if it had been varnished, and every minute or two he would rub his bald head with his handkerchief, till it shone like cream-laid note paper. As he spoke his chin would work like the leather of a blacksmith's bellows. He stood looking at Kitty, as if waiting to know her business.

"If you please, sir," she said timidly, and pointing to the placard in front, "I've come to know if you will give me some work to do?"

"What?" said the gentleman frowning, till the fat creases in his forehead all puckered together.

"Some work at artificial flower-making," continued Kitty, growing pale.

"Ho! ho! ho!" shouted the proprietor, slapping his thigh. "Here, 'Lizer, here!" and he lifted up a part of the canvas at the back. A sound of hissing, and a smell of sausages came rushing through the opening. "Here, 'Lizer; here—quick!"

A lady, very much freckled, and with her gown pinned up and showing the lining, came hurrying into the shop. A fork was in her hand, and she carried a considerable quantity of their floral stock-in-trade arranged in her cap.

"Here, 'Lizer; here's a girl as wants you to give her some flowers to make." And he roared again, stamping like a Scotch washerwoman. "Oh! oh! ha! ha! ain't she beautiful green? Aint it refreshing to see; 'Lizer? Hang me if she don't knock Highgate clean out of the field, she's so jolly verdant."

The poor child didn't know what to make of the gentleman's manner.

"I thought that, as you wanted five hundred hands directly, you wouldn't."

"Stop her! stop her mouth!" roared the man; "for Heaven's sake, stop her mouth! She'll kill me, she will! Ha! ha! Ho! ho! He! he!"

And, indeed, the gentleman's face was getting so red, and his eyes had disappeared behind his cheeks so mysteriously, that Kitty, fearing he might go off rather suddenly, became silent of her own accord.

After a moment or two, he was all right again, and toned down to his natural colour. To tell the truth, the placard was, after all, nothing more than what is called in the language of spirited tradesmen "a blind, to draw people." The proprietor wished to be thought in a very large way of business, and imagined that nothing would convey that notion so well as the idea of his being in want of "five hundred hands directly." He had first tried it at York, and it had answered so well, that he had since used it at every town he stopped at. Little Kitty was the first one that had ever believed it to be true; for, as the gentleman never stayed longer than two or three days in a town at one time, it had been very well argued that the wages would be too small to pay for travelling expenses.

At last, the woman, having told "Hercule to be quiet" (as they were from Paris, he used a French name), turned to Kitty, "You're too late, my dear; we've engaged all we want."

The girl's hand dropped in despair, as she heard the words. "If you had any work—needlework, ma'am, I should be very glad to do it."

Hercule roared out again: "Oh! she's too verdant to look at. She hurts the eyes, she do. You might lay her down in grass plots, you might."

Kitty could not understand it at all. Why should the man laugh at her? It was very cruel of him, and she was nearly crying.

"No, my dear, I've got nothing for you; and, as the child yet stood still, she added, "There, you can go, my dear."

"Do you know of any one—that would—I've a good character, ma'am—that wants any work done?" stammered out Kitty, as a last resource.

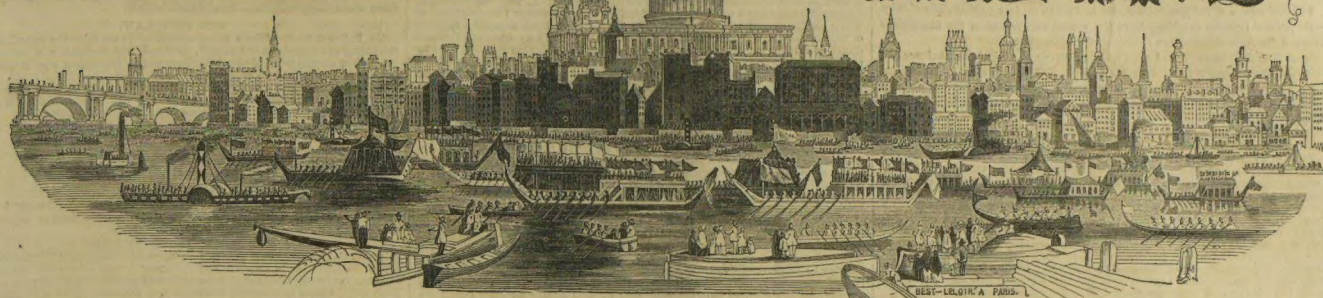
Turning to her husband, the woman said, "There's no harm trying Mrs. Lucas: she may want a girl, and it ain't far for her."

"Oh! I don't mind the distance, ma'am," cried Kitty joyfully, and brightening up with the prospect of success.

So the conference ended. The address was given, and the wretched daughter ran off as fast as she could, afraid that her father might miss



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[SIXPENCE {WITH SUPPLEMENT, GRATIS.

THE BUDGET.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has introduced the Budget. Much was expected from him on this occasion. He had a surplus to deal with, and an opportunity of showing that his wisdom as a financier was worthy of his responsibilities. Never did a Minister in such a position so wofully disappoint expectation.

The speech in which the right hon. gentleman embodied his financial statement, fell upon the ears of an attentive, but a cold and unapproving auditory. There was not an independent or opposition member in the House, or even a friend of the Government, who did not feel that the weakness of the Administration was exposed in its most important department; and that—after such a display of utter want of comprehension of the feeling of the country, of the philosophy of finance, and of the necessities of the tax-paying community—the doom of the Administration was only postponed, until it was worth the while of the Opposition to displace it. Since the delivery of the speech, the feeling generated in the House has extended through the country, increasing in intensity the more the Budget has been discussed, and the more the eyes of the people have been opened to the extraordinary and almost incredible wrongheadedness and blundering of the Government in a department which more than any other in these times requires wisdom and foresight to conduct it.

The whole scheme is based upon the renewal of the Property and Income-tax for three years. It might have been imagined, considering the importance of this subject, not only in itself, but as the only possible foundation for those reductions of taxation which the country has a right to expect, when its present and proximate income exceeds the expenditure, that care would have been taken to remove the universally admitted dishonesty of the impost as now levied. But Sir Charles Wood needlessly, and as if from the very wantonness of official despotism, has refused to give himself the slightest trouble in the matter, and proposes to perpetuate the gross immorality of mulcting precarious income to the same extent as realised property. With the most provoking coolness, he admits that "perfectly good arguments may be adduced against the injustice of schedule D;" but persists, without argument to prove his statement, "that, upon the whole, the only fair and practicable mode of proceeding is to tax all income alike," whether derived from houses and lands, worth 20 or 30 years purchase, or from the brains of the professional man, dependent upon life, health, and sanity, and which in any individual case may not be worth the purchase of a twelvemonth, or even of a day. Although the cruelty of the tax in this respect is proved to have led to its systematic evasion by large classes of the people—who agree that it is not dishonest to deceive a dishonest Government—the iniquity, so easily to be remedied, is to remain in full force, to be a perpetual source of wrong and annoyance to the most valuable classes of the community; and to keep up an irritation which cannot possibly have a good, but must inevitably produce a bad effect upon the minds of men whom a wise Government would, above all things, endeavour to satisfy and propitiate. The Property and Income-tax was originally submitted to with all its proved hardship, because it was understood that its operation was to be temporary; and because it was not worth while, under such circumstances, to defeat the great measures of permanent good that were to flow from it. But now that it is to be a regular item in the ways and means of the country, it is a gross dereliction of duty on the part of the Ministry to refuse to reform it. If we must endure such an impost, it must be made equitable. The Property-tax must extend to all property, under, as well as above, the arbitrary line of £150 per annum drawn by Sir Robert Peel; and it must have regard to those principles of public as well as private morality, in the distinction between income from realised property and that from precarious exertion of mind or body, which can alone give it a title to the respect of the people. In its present form there will continue to be an agitation against it on the one hand, and an evasion of it on the other; accompanied in both cases by a continued sense of injustice, and a strong feeling of irritation against the gratuitous folly of the Government which imposed or perpetuated it.

But this is not all. Even if this tax were made as equitable as could be desired, and if all reasonable ground of complaint against it were removed, the Budget would in other respects be a monument of Ministerial incapacity to understand or deal with the great financial questions of our time. With a surplus which might have enabled the Government to do positive good, in freeing industry from the trammels still left upon it, or in untaxing the light and air of heaven—the Chancellor of the Exchequer has contrived a complex scheme, which, if carried, will sacrifice his surplus without giving satisfaction to a single class or interest. In the first place, the repeal of the Window Duties has been framed on so ridiculous a principle, and in so confused and intricate a manner, as

to do the least possible amount of good, at the greatest possible cost. Windows are no longer to be taxed; but all houses already built are to pay two-thirds of their present assessment for windows as a permanent house-tax, while houses hereafter built are to pay a house-tax of five per cent. on the rental. Why a distinction should be made between houses built and unbuilt, would puzzle anyone but our sagacious Chancellor of the Exchequer. To show the folly, as well as injustice, of the distinction, the following case will suffice. There are, within our knowledge, in a certain district of London (which need not be more particularly specified), a row of houses let at from £70 to £75 per annum. These houses pay window-tax on twenty-seven windows, or openings, or £8 11s. per annum. By the plan of Sir Charles Wood, they will be liable to a permanent house-tax of £5 14s. Precisely similar houses, if built hereafter, and let at the same rental, will have to pay only £3 15s. The "force of bungling can no further go." We are willing to admit that a house-tax is better than a window-tax; but that a Minister should so wilfully run his head into an absurdity, in striving to get rid of a wrong, passes our comprehension altogether.

Then, again, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to pay off a million of the National Debt. The policy of this, at the present time, is exceedingly questionable, when, as Mr. Hume showed, for every £100 of debt which had been funded at £86, the nation would have to pay at the rate of £96. This, it must be admitted, is a very bad investment of the surplus, or of any portion of it. Surely it would be far better to untax industry, and thereby lay the

foundation for a still larger surplus than is now at disposal, than to pay about a farthing in the pound on the National Debt; and leave such branches of industry as the manufacture of paper and soap to be burdened, as they now are, with excise duties which prevent the remunerative employment of from a quarter to half a million of people. Sir Charles Wood, however, does not seem to be of this opinion; an error of judgment which, it is to be hoped, the House of Commons will help him to rectify.

The reduction of the duties on coffee will give but little satisfaction to any one but the retail grocers, who will, in all probability, be the only parties benefited by it. The English are not pre-eminently a coffee-drinking people; they prefer tea. The reduction of the Tea duties, while it would have tended to increase our trade with a very rich country, and which might have been effected without any ultimate sacrifice of revenue, would have been attended with the greatest benefit to the poorer classes of this country. But then such a question required energy, courage, and comprehensiveness of views; and, failing these on the part of the Government, a peddling, pettifogging, insignificant reduction in the coffee duties has been substituted for the wiser and larger measure which sound policy would have dictated.

The reduction of the duties on foreign timber and foreign seeds are, as far as we know, unobjectionable; but why these items should have been selected from amid the mass of infinitely more important matters that call for revision, we confess our inability to account for, unless it be that Sir Charles Wood likes to deal in



THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (RIGHT HON. SIR CHARLES WOOD) INTRODUCING THE BUDGET IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

surprises, and to shower his benefits in quarters where they are not expected.

Some of these changes are offered as boons to the distressed agriculturists—especially the substitution of a house for a window-tax, and the reduction of the duty on grass and clover-seeds. Whether the agriculturists will be grateful for either, remains to be seen. A third boon offered to them is the transfer of the cost of maintaining pauper lunatics from the county rates to the Consolidated Fund. Upon this principle, we cannot see why the whole of the poor-rates should not be transferred in the same manner.

There is as much argument for the one transfer as for the other. But, from beginning to end, the Budget is one huge blunder; the more unpardonable because the Chancellor of the Exchequer confesses to some of the evils which he refuses to remove, and endeavours to perpetuate wrong, apparently because he will not be dictated to as to the manner in which he should do right.

If the Opposition are ready to turn out the Ministry, and are prepared with a plan of finance, they have now an opportunity for action. Possibly Lord Stanley and Mr. Disraeli are not prepared, but, in any case, we much question whether it will be possible for

the Ministry to carry such a Budget as this. They may outlive the discredit that it will bring upon them, but it will not be for any lengthened period.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

Political affairs at the present moment in France are in a perfect state of calm—the natural reaction resulting from the recent excitement of the dissensions between the Assembly and the President of the Republic.

Louis Napoleon has accepted with an appearance of stoical nonchalance the refusal of the Assembly to increase his income, and is preparing to reduce the expenditure of his establishment. His expensive receptions at the Elysée have been stopped, and a sale of twenty-one of his saddle and carriage-horses is announced for the 26th inst.

The question of an amnesty, which has been mooted by the Mountain, is exciting increased attention, and it is thought probable that it will be carried.

Some changes which the Government is making in the organisation of the army of Paris, are laid hold of by those who look upon everything done by the Government as a fresh attempt on the part of Louis Napoleon to arrive at the Empire. The army of Paris has, it appears, been divided into four divisions, instead of two. The opposition papers say that the effect of this measure has been to diminish by the number of troops under the command of General Ferrié, who is at the head of the troops intended for the defence of the Assembly. They also say that General Julien, who commands a brigade of the army of Paris, is removed, because, in the course of a private conversation, he had expressed his opinion of the court of Louis Napoleon to the troops at the reviews in autumn last, and similar to the one which led to the removal of Gen. Neumayer. In short, they insinuate that the Government is preparing the army in such a manner as to bring it to bear in favour of the cause of Louis Napoleon, and to make the determination of the Assembly with respect to the revision of the Constitution. In other respects the journals are without interest, being mostly occupied with the debates in the *bureau* on the proposed organic law respecting communal and departmental administration.

The first cargo of Piedmontese corn, of 1200 packages, for the Hyde-Park Exhibition, left Paris on Tuesday for Dunkirk, thence to be transmitted to Ostend, on its way to England.

ITALIAN STATES.

Advices from Geneva, of the 17th inst., mention the arrival there of the celebrated Roman chief Garibaldi, whose object, it is said, is to get up an expedition to operate in Italy, at the commencement of spring. Mazzini is actively engaged with Garibaldi in forwarding the contemplated expedition. With respect to the late attempt by Garibaldi and his followers to enter the various states of Italy, it is said that in Genoa his success has been greatest. Piedmont has given him £2,000 fr.; the Roman States, 335,722fr.; the Two Sicilies, 214,341fr.; Lombardy, 916,353fr.; the other petty States, 294,111fr. The expedition of the French authorities into the recently discovered Lyons plot has led to the discovery of a vast conspiracy, which prepared a revolution at Naples and Rome. This discovery has led to some arrests at those two places.

GERMAN STATES.

It is very generally understood (though the intelligence still needs confirmation) that Austria and Prussia have succeeded in carrying, at the Dresden Congress, a resolution by which not only the non-German provinces (Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, &c.) of both nations, but the Italian provinces of Austria, are to be represented in the new Diet of the German Confederation, and that France and England have strongly protested against the measure, as being likely to lead to the destruction of the balance of power amongst European nations, by giving too great an influence to Austria.

The desire of Prussia to recover her Protectorate, in all its full power and influence, over the Swiss Canton of Neuchâtel, and the dissatisfaction of both Austria and Prussia at the continuance given in the Swiss Cantons to the Italian and other foreign revolutionary refugees, have produced an estrangement between the Government of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation. The latter is likely to need the intervention of France or England to restore friendly relations between them.

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople of the 5th inst. state that there had been some sharp fighting between the Arabs and the Turks at Bagdad, when the former were defeated, with the loss of 30 men killed. The Arab chief, Sheikh Azal was among the wounded.

UNITED STATES.

There is no political intelligence of any importance in the accounts received from New York this week, which, up to the 5th inst. The great arrival brings accounts of the loss of the steamer *John Adams* on the Mississippi: no fewer than 123 of her crew and passengers drowned.

In Congress the Branch Mint Bill had been under discussion, and New York expressed the opinion that it was a good one.

The Constitution Convention of Indiana has, by a decisive vote, excluded negroes and mulattoes from hereafter sitting in that state. It is further decided that all contracts with such persons shall be void; that any one employing them or encouraging them to remain in the state, shall be liable to a fine of from 10 to 100 dollars; and that the same shall be applied towards the gradual colonisation of the negroes now in the state. This article is to be submitted to a separate vote of the people.

The frigate *St. Lawrence*, with articles for the Great Exhibition, was nearly ready for sea, having taken on board nearly all the contributions, numbering about 600.

It is said that Sir H. Bulwer has addressed a letter to Mr. Webster, in which he states that the Clayton treaty had no reference whatever to the Mosquito "protectorate," and that his Majesty's Government would not object to the occupation of San Juan de Nicaragua. This letter Mr. Webster has laid before the committee of foreign relations.

Nicaragua accounts to Dec. 31 report that the port of San Juan had been made free to all nations. The canal project were rapidly progressing, the steamer directors having succeeded in getting on the lake.

INDIA.

We noticed in our Postscript last week a telegraphic despatch, received *ad Trieste*, briefly communicating intelligence from Bombay to Jan. 17, and Calcutta Jan. 7. Fuller accounts have since arrived. Except in the Nizam's dominions, tranquillity prevailed throughout India. The interview between the Maharajah Ghode Singh and the Governor-General was celebrated with great splendour on the 26th of December and succeeding days, at Wuzerabad. Ghode Singh was accompanied by his son, two of his nephews, and Colonel Steinbach, the commander of his army, of which about 2500 men formed his escort. The chiefs were received by the Governor-General with the greatest attention, and the whole of the chiefs having offered gifts in cash, the presents intended for them in return were brought in and distributed, the Maharajah's consisting of an elephant with a silver howdah or chair, two horses, and forty-one trays of miscellaneous presents. The Maharajah was accompanied by a large number of his friends on the part of both rulers towards each other was exchanged, and the tumasha ended. The next afternoon the Governor-General returned the visit, accompanied by Sir H. Lawrence, Sir W. Gilbert, Sir H. Elliot, and a host of others, all mounted on elephants, the noble Marquis seated in a splendid howdah, which is said to be the most magnificent thing of the kind ever made. The Maharajah's son had come as far as his Lordship's camp to escort him to that of his sire, who had advanced nearly a mile for the purpose of doing honour to his illustrious guest. The Marquis only accompanied his guest the previous day from his seat to the centre of the carpet in the durbar tent. The interview terminated with a review of the British troops under Major-General Gilbert.

The health of the troops throughout the Punjab was steadily improving, though the hospitals were still crowded, and its visit has given an impulse to the progress of sanitary improvement, which is likely to be permanently beneficial.

The Bombay railway is proceeding satisfactorily. In Bengal, a commission has been appointed to make the most complete investigation into the whole organization of the commissariat. The alleged frauds in this department, and the claims constantly made against it for large undistributed balances, have been the cause of a good deal of comment.

The act for taking land for railways in Bengal has scarcely yet come into effective operation, some doubts, though apparently without sufficient reason, having been at first entertained regarding its sufficiency.

CHINA.

The accounts by the Overland Mail from Hong-Kong are to December 30. The disturbances by the rebels in the Kwangtung and Kwang-sai provinces were at an end.

It was generally reported at Canton that Comrade-lower Lin was dead. He had been sent by the Emperor to put down the rebels in the Kwang-sai district, not very far from Canton. From the energy of his character and the dread entertained of him by the rebels, he was considered a great general. He was killed in the Empire. He was well known to the Emperor, and by his acts in 1850 by the distance he kept them in for six weeks, and by the seizure of the opium.

Great sickness still prevailed among her Majesty's 95th Regiment—upwards of 200 being now in the hospital.

Two Swedish missionaries at Foochow, in the early part of December, returning from a vessel, with a small amount of money for their personal wants, were attacked by pirates. One (Mr. East) was killed; and the other was severely wounded, but escaped by jumping into the water and swimming ashore. The Chinese authorities were very prompt on this occasion in discovering the perpetrators and inflicting punishment.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from Page 150 of the Supplement.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

LORD STANLEY presented petitions from Devonshire, very numerously signed, complaining of agricultural depression, and attributing that depression to the Free-trade measures of recent years. (Hear.) The petitioners prayed that their Lordships would pass measures for the revision of the tariff, and complained of the past measures as a system of one-sided Free Trade, under the operation of which all their best exertions were paralysed. They prayed, also, for a revision of the present Navigation Laws, for the imposition of such an amount of import duties on foreign produce as should be equivalent to the assistance paid by the home producer, and for an alteration in the currency laws. The noble Lord added, that such a state of things was represented to their Lordships by these petitioners as their most serious consideration. (Hear.)

The Duke of Devonshire presented a rose, in commemoration of the same effect, and numerously signed, from various parts of the country.

The Earl of Hardwicke then rose, in accordance with the notice he had given, to present petitions from Cambridgeshire, complaining of agricultural depression, and attributing that depression to the Free-trade measures of recent years. (Hear.) The petitioners prayed that their Lordships would pass measures for the revision of the tariff, and complained of the past measures as a system of one-sided Free Trade, under the operation of which all their best exertions were paralysed. They prayed, also, for a revision of the present Navigation Laws, for the imposition of such an amount of import duties on foreign produce as should be equivalent to the assistance paid by the home producer, and for an alteration in the currency laws. The noble Lord added, that such a state of things was represented to their Lordships by these petitioners as their most serious consideration. (Hear.)

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The Duke of Richmond would undertake to prove the existence of severe distress amongst the agriculturists, leaving it to the Government to provide the remedy. There was a scarcity already prevalent of employment for labourers, although the landlords and farmers were giving work to much greater numbers than they required or could afford, in order to enable them to live. This was a course which could not last, and which was endangering public tranquillity. He condemned the malt-tax as both unjust and obnoxious, pressing with great injustice on the labouring classes of the community. It was impossible that the present struggle could last very long. It was necessary to have the heavy-tax on the home trade, and the lighter-tax on the foreign trade, and the loss of the home trade, which must follow the depression of agriculture, must very quickly pull down the manufacturer to the same level of ruin as the agriculturist.

The Earl of Devonshire then rose, to move that the Government should be held responsible for the distress in the county of Norfolk the condition of the agricultural labourer was more favourable than it had been for the last few years, as was proved by the diminished returns of pauperism and other evidences. He could scarcely think that any party in the country would be bold enough to reverse a policy which had produced such gratifying results. The Earl of Devonshire was anxious that the distress amongst the agriculturists should be for one moment questioned. The remedy to be adopted was to abandon class taxation, which was producing such mischievous results since class protection had been withdrawn.

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estimate in the Miscellaneous Estimates, and probably it would be No. 1, but he could not say precisely.

To a question of Mr. Higgins, viz. whether it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to introduce any measure this session for the regulation of grand juries in Ireland? Sir W. Somerville was understood to reply in the negative. Mr. Keon asked, whether it was the intention of the Government to place any Roman Catholics on the Commission of Inquiry into the University of Dublin?

LORD J. RUSSELL said, the commissioners were appointed on the recommendation of Lord Clarendon, and he (Lord J. Russell) could not then say whether there was a Roman Catholic amongst them.

THE POOR-LAW.

MR. P. SCROPE moved for a select committee to consider the expediency of assimilating the poor-laws of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and promoting the productive employment of able-bodied paupers. His object was to obtain uniformity in the poor-laws of the kingdom.

The hon. gentleman then proceeded to read his project, when an hon. member moved that the House be counted, which was done, and there being only 27 members present, the House stood adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The House met at noon.

The railway from Madrid to Aranjuez was opened on the 9th inst. with great solemnity. The King, the Queen, the Ministers, the diplomatic body, and other distinguished personages, to the number of 400, went by the first train to Aranjuez, where a splendid *déjeuner* awaited them, in honour



THE SHIP "HIBERNIA," BUILT AT QUEBEC.

THE SHIP "HIBERNIA."

THIS superb new frigate-built ship is considered the finest specimen of her class ever built at Quebec. She was constructed by Mr. James Erskine Oliver, and is the property of a very spirited and enterprising shipowner, John Dunn, Esq., of Belfast. The *Hibernia* registers 1065 tons measurement, and is about 1600 tons burthen; and, as she is esteemed an excellent model for sailing, and as she is in superior trim for realising these expectations from her cargo, outfit, &c., there is no doubt she will earn a high reputation for her fast sailing qualities. She is about being despatched to Port Adelaide and Port Philip, with a cargo of merchandise and emigrants, by Messrs. G. and A. Herring and Co.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN TOOLEY-STREET.

EARLY on Wednesday morning, a fire of a most destructive character broke out upon the premises of Messrs. Wigan, White, and Co., hop-factors, of Duke-street and Tooley-street, Southwark, in the neighbourhood of the South-Eastern Railway Station. This locality has been singularly unfortunate in regard to visitations of this kind within the

last few years. In 1836 a great fire broke out in a grocer's shop in Wellington-street, and, extending rapidly, destroyed the premises which stood upon the very ground where the present fire has taken place, with Fenning's Wharf in addition. In 1842, Topping's Wharf, which adjoins Fenning's Wharf, was burnt to the ground, St. Olave's Church being nearly destroyed.

The fire of Wednesday commenced in the basement story of No. 5, Duke-street, occupied by Messrs. Wigan as offices. The policeman on duty speedily gave the alarm, and the engines from various Brigade stations began to arrive in quick succession, those from Tooley-street and Southwark-bridge being first on the spot. "In consequence of the 'high service' required at this part of Duke-street," the *Herald* reporter states, "unfortunately there was but a scanty supply of water for some time after the arrival of the engines." Meantime, the wind blowing fresh from the south-west, the flames had full play, and quickly made their way to the warehouses in the rear of the house where the fire originated, where they very soon raged with a fury which caused the greatest alarm for the surrounding houses, many of which indeed suffered considerable damage. The two floating engines, stationed at the Tower and Southwark-bridge, were now sent for, and they arrived in the course of an

hour—not before their services were much needed; for it appears, unfortunately, that, although several of the engines of the land brigade were sent round to the Tooley-street side as soon as the warehouse was ascertained to be on fire, "the extreme height of the building upon which it was desired to throw the water (nearly eighty feet from the level of the street) rendered it impossible to effect much service from this quarter, and the labours of the firemen were at first almost confined to keeping the adjoining premises cool."

After some delay a survey of the scene of devastation was made by Mr. Braidwood, and other officers of the Brigade force, from the roofs of adjoining houses, and the hose of some of the engines having been sent up to the same places, streams of water were poured upon the fire, which, combining with those from the floating engines, now got to work, put the flames in some degree in check, though they were utterly powerless to prevent the destruction of the whole building, with its valuable contents, including hops to the value of some £40,000 or £50,000. The roof fell in early, and floor after floor followed, until all was a mass of blazing ruins. At eleven o'clock—eight hours after the commencement of the fire—Mr. Braidwood was enabled to pronounce that they had seen the worst of it, and that there was no longer any danger of its extension beyond the walls of the warehouse in which it had done such havoc, and the dwelling-house in Duke-street, which were totally consumed. One limit to the general havoc, however, we are happy to record. It appears that when the premises were built, after the fire of 1836, Mr. Alderman Humphrey, M.P., who is the proprietor of this and a great deal of property in the neighbourhood, resolved to make the building fireproof as far as possible, and to this end had the floor over the ground-floor, and that between the latter and the cellars, constructed of concrete. The precaution was successful; and the fire was stopped in its downward ravages at the former point, and so escaped communicating with the cellars, which contained at the moment some 2000 tons of oil, much to the astonishment of the Brigade and all beholders, until the arrival of Alderman Humphrey, who explained the circumstance referred to.

For some time there was much apprehension that the walls would fall, but this fortunately did not occur; if it had, the lives of the firemen, who were daring, zealous, and untiring in their labours, would have been placed in imminent peril. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the firemen, having been at work for twelve hours, were relieved by drafts from other divisions in the metropolis, by whom water still continued to be poured upon the ruins throughout the evening and great part of the night.

Of the surrounding premises, those of Mr. Wynn, bootmaker, 5, Duke-street; Mr. Bolton, coffee-shop-keeper, 3, Duke-street; Mr. Smithers, fishmonger, 1, Duke-street, were partially damaged by fire and water; and three others suffered more or less from water. Messrs. Wigan, we understand, are fully insured; but Alderman Humphrey, though insured, is not so, it is said, to the full value of the building.

We cannot avoid the opportunity which the accounts of this occurrence afford us, of directing attention to the lamentably insufficient means which at present exist in this great metropolis for the extinction of fires. Without detracting for one moment from the well-earned and well-sustained character for efficiency of the fire-brigade, or the ability and good generalship of Mr. Braidwood, who superintends their exertions, it cannot be denied, that, as regards the appliances at their command, we are greatly in the rear of the spirit of the age, as evidenced in its application to other important public works; whilst we have undoubtedly much to learn from many communities both in Europe and America. Some interesting statements in reference to this important subject occur in the course of the "Report of the Board of Health on Water Supply;" and, though our present limits will not allow us to go into its details at anything like the length it deserves, we may, perhaps, be doing some good by referring to some of the principal and most obvious points considered in the course of the inquiries of the Commissioners.

It need hardly be suggested, that, in the case of a fire "breaking out," as it is phrased, assistance, to be of use in the way of suppression, should be prompt. A jugful of water, instantly applied, may extinguish a burning curtain; whilst, as is notorious, the whole force of the London Brigade, though "promptly on the spot," with the turnkey too often in their rear, seldom—in very few instances proportionally—save even the house in which a fire occurs. It appears, from the evidence of various witnesses, that, in the average of cases, from twenty minutes to half an hour elapses between the alarm of fire being given, and the arrival of the first engine; then comes the delay of turning on the water; then the vexation of finding an insufficient supply, as was the case on Wednesday; then the inadequate power of the engines, worked by the brute force of human hands, to reach the elevated point to which the flames, left unchecked, have been all this time ascending; all which was specially and lamentably instanced in the fire of Wednesday last.

It is remarkable of this particular district of Southwark, that, whilst it is crowded with large warehouses, full of valuable property, and is precisely that point, of all the metropolis, where a fire, once breaking out, would be likely to be most destructive, the supply of water is the worst. Mr. Braidwood, in his evidence, says:—"Along the south shore, from London-bridge, we have some very heavy fires, and great want of water."



DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN TOOLEY-STREET, SOUTHWARK, ON WEDNESDAY.

RESTORATION OF BEDDINGTON CHURCH.

THE fine old church of Beddington, in Surrey, has lately undergone an entire restoration, in strict accordance with the original character of the architecture; and there has been added to the sacred edifice a north aisle in the Decorated style of the 14th century. We have engraved this new portion. The Church, it will be recollected, was founded before the Conquest, and was rebuilt in the reign of Richard II. This structure has already been engraved in No. 138 of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

The new aisle, extending the whole length of the nave, is separated from the old church by a row of round columns, with carved capitals of foliage. The roof of the nave is of open timber-work, with carving.

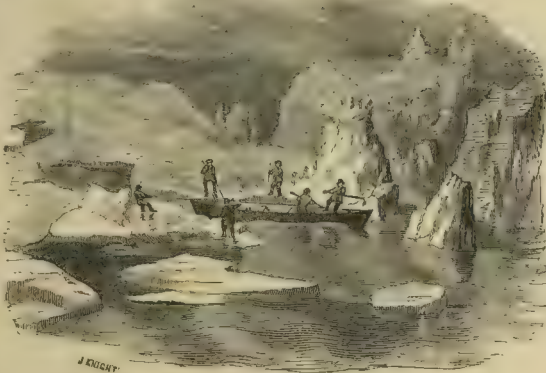
The other works are as follows:—The chancel arch has been rebuilt, and a hammer-beam roof placed upon the chancel. The old stalls have been restored to their original position, and the whole of the nave filled with benches, some of which have their ends filled with tracery. The whole of the wood-work is oak, and the columns, dressings, &c. are of Bath stone.

The children of the National Schools have united to purchase two small windows of stained glass for the porch; and it is hoped that soon the remainder of the chancel windows will be filled with stained glass, and the organ replaced under the tower arch. It is proposed to add a tower screen to part off the vestry. The tower arch and the other stonework on the inside have been cleared of whitewash, and restored with the plastering, &c., throughout. The floor of the church is laid with plain red and black tiles. The walls are tinted with brick, and the masonry is in Bath stone. The restoration has been conducted under the direction of Mr. Joseph Clarke, architect; and the contractor was Mr. Myers. It is expected that the cost will not be less than £3000.—*Builder.*

GUTTA PERCHA BOATS.

(To the Editor.)

THE value of Gutta Percha, as an article applied to boats, could, perhaps, never have been better tested than during the late voyage of the *Prince Albert* in search of Sir John Franklin, and I feel very great pleasure in giving my humble testimony to its undoubted merits. Having, in almost every instance, had charge of the Gutta Percha Boat,



GUTTA PERCHA BOAT, EMPLOYED IN THE LATE VOYAGE OF THE "PRINCE ALBERT" IN SEARCH OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

in the various examinations of the coast we made, and in rough passages through the ice, I had good and ample opportunities of giving her a fair trial, and the result was highly satisfactory. As an article with which I had previously been but little acquainted, I was at first cautious in the extreme, whenever I was away in that particular boat; but at last I preferred her to any other, and would not have hesitated to have gone any distance for any length of time in her. The men (old whalers, long accustomed to the ice) in like manner gave her the preference, and considered her far superior for such service to the ordinary boats generally used.

The first trial she received was off the Greenland coast, when we were surrounded by icebergs. I proceeded in her to a large berg for the purpose of procuring water, and it was found that she pulled lightly, and swam as buoyantly as we could wish. The various pieces of ice that she unavoidably ran against did her no injury, and they glided past her without leaving the slightest indentation as a mark of the contact.

On the night of the 17th July I again had an opportunity of testing her qualities. In searching for the Danish settlement of Upernivik, I proceeded in her for several miles through the various inlets and channels abounding in the "Woman Islands." On one occasion I had her pulled up high on the rocky beach, while landing to examine; and I could not perceive the slightest mark of a scratch, from the rough nature of her bed, such as an ordinary boat would have received if I had attempted the same with it. Upon returning to the ship, we ran through a small stream of rather close ice, and I was agreeably surprised to find how quietly the Gutta Percha appeared to slip through it, and how well it resisted the different attacks it received. As a memorial of our visit, and the value we attached to the article of which our boat was made, the inlet we were then making our way through was called "Gutta Percha Inlet," a name it will no doubt always retain, and be remembered by among whalers.

Frequently after this the boat was in use, and principally among heavy ice. Indeed, when one boat alone was required, the Gutta Percha Boat was that invariably used. Every one saw its superiority to the ordinary boats; and it was kept incessantly at work, boring, breaking, and crossing the ice at all times.

But the severest trial it endured, and endured successfully, was on both my visits to Whaler Point, Port Leopold. To those unaccustomed to the nature of such ice as was there met with, it will be impossible fully to conceive the position a boat was placed in. The mere transit to and fro among loose masses of ice with the sea in a state of quiescence would have been quite enough to have proved or not the value of Gutta Percha Boats; but when, as in the present case, those masses were all in restless agitation, with a sea rolling in upon an opposing current, it might have been well excused—and without deteriorating from the previously attested goodness of the article—if it had not been able to have resisted the severe shocks it received. My first visit was difficult enough, but the second was far worse; and nothing but the exigencies of the service would have warranted me in attempting to force a way as I did. My dependence, however, was upon the already well-tried qualities of the boat. Sliding through and over the ice; sometimes lifted completely out of the water by the sudden contact of a restless floe; and at others thrown sideways upon an adjoining craggy piece, I think it would have been next to impossible for any other kind of boat to have been otherwise than crushed or stove on the instant. The sketch I have forwarded to you will convey some faint idea of this. (See the Engraving.) The weather was rather foggy, and it was very



BEDDINGTON CHURCH.—NEW AISLE.

On the other side of the river the same deficiency of water does not exist; and this is partly owing to the bad level of the Surrey side, and the requirements of the "high water service" above mentioned, which, we understand, renders necessary, in some cases, the cutting off of some branches before the heavy demand occasioned by a conflagration such as that of Wednesday can be supplied.

The question is, what would remedy the great evil here complained of, our fires increasing in number and in destructive character every year? We have but one answer; the establishment of a system of constant water supply at high pressure, with jets and hose at frequent intervals, which, upon the first appearance of an outbreak, may be introduced into the house through a window even, and choke the "devouring enemy" with his first mouthful. This system has already been tried, and it is now in operation in Philadelphia, in Liverpool, in Oldham, in Hamburg (the new part of the town), and other places with strikingly beneficial results. We take three brief extracts from the evidence above referred to in support of this position, and then conclude, recommending the subject to the earnest attention of the Legislature.

Mr. Emmott, manager and engineer of the Oldham Waterworks, says:—"In five cases out of six the hose is pushed into a water plug, and the water thrown upon a building on fire, for the average pressure of water in this town is 146 feet; by this means our fires are generally extinguished, even before the heavy engine arrives at the spot."

Mr. Newlands, town surveyor of Liverpool, after describing the operation of the jet system, says:—"Serious fires are now seldom heard of, for before the flames can gain head, the jets can generally be played upon them, and this is the only time there is any chance of subduing them."

Mr. W. Lindley, engineer, in reference to Hamburg, says that in the new part of that town, where the jet system is applied, fires when they occur are invariably put out before the engine arrives; and adds that "the saving of money alone, by the prevention of fires, would be worth the whole expense of the like arrangement in London."

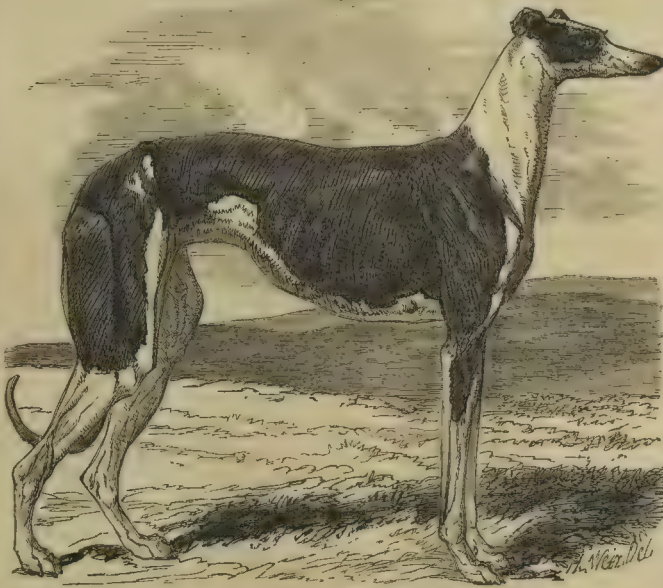
NEWMARKET COURSING MEETING.

ALTHOUGH we are free to confess, our incentive in taking a trip to Newmarket on the 10th of this month, so as to witness the coursing that came off on the day following, was self gratification, still, when there, we did not lose sight of the chance of affording our readers some proof of our attention to them: to this end we obtained permission to have correct sketches made of the subjects of illustration.

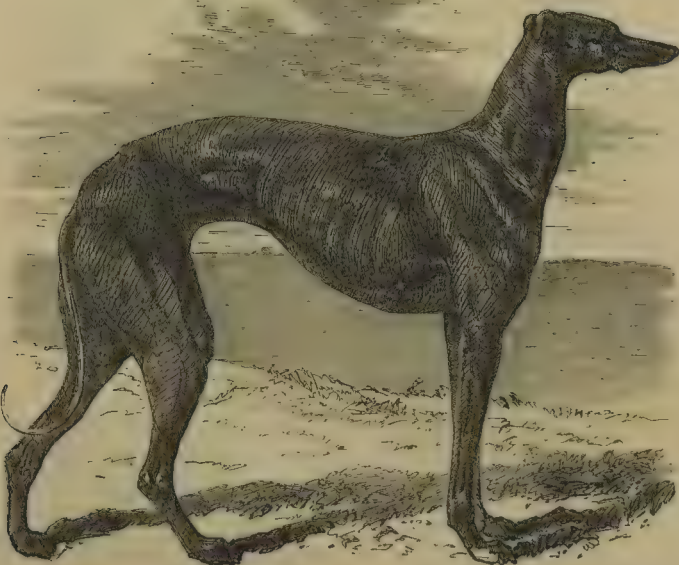
Each of the dogs depicted was a winner; namely, Mr. Holmes's b. b. Mocking-bird carried off the Cup, The Oaks Stakes were won by Mr. Round's b.-and-w. b. Lola Montes.

The Port Stakes were made portable to Lord Stradbroke, by the speed and gameness of his b. b. Manto.

Of the relative perfections, in point of symmetry, of the three, we leave our readers to judge; we merely youth for the correctness of the sketches. We are quite aware of the value to be attached to such shape and make as indicates powers of speed and endurance in the greyhound, as well as in the racehorse; but we are equally aware that such promise is not always realised when either animal comes to the surer test of a trial with others. One thing, however, we may venture to judge, as regards greyhounds or racehorses—no shape in either animal is disagreeable in the eyes of an owner, if either or both can "go in and win."



MR ROUND'S "LOLA MONTES."



LORD STRADBROKE'S "MANTO."



MR. HOLMES'S "MOCKING-BIRD."

...intrudingly two journals.

TOWN TALK AND TABLE TALK.

MR. MACREADY'S approaching benefit continues to find employment to

This having been agreed to, several other gentlemen addressed the meeting and a committee was appointed to carry out the foregoing objects.

[illegible]

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—Births registered in the week ending Saturday, Feb. 15: Males, 821; females, 700; total, 1,520. Deaths during



THE NEAPOLITAN FISHERMAN'S FAMILY.—PAINTED BY RÜDEL.

FAVOURING gales around him blowing,
Sunshine streaming on his way,
Early in the summer morning
Went the fisher o'er the bay.
On the cliff his wife and children,
Watch afar the white sail set;
Gale blow steady, seas be ready!
Waft him safely, load his net!

Now, at noon, they wait his coming,
Patient and devoid of fear,
Certain that no storm shall ruffle
Sea so glassy, sky so clear.
And the infant sleeps contented;
And the child upon the grass
Lies her length, with half-closed eyelids,
Smiling at the clouds that pass.

And the mother, pleased and happy,
Counts her beads and says her prayer,
Scarcely conscious of the action,
Dozing in the drowsy air.
Dreams and fancies flit before her,
Vague as vapours tost by wind,
Floating in their changeful colours
Through the quiet of her mind.

Happy climate! happy people!
Living in the present hour,
Basking in the joyous sunlight,
Careless as the birds in bower,
May no storm of life or ocean
Turn your pleasure into pain!
Gale blow steady, seas be ready!
Waft the fisher home again!

C. F. H.



DESIGNS FOR THE PEELE MONUMENT, EXHIBITED IN THE TOWN-HALL AT BURY, LANCASHIRE.

THE PEEL MONUMENT,
BURY.

THE several models sent by the competing sculptors for this memorial to the lamented Sir Robert Peel, have lately been placed in the Town-hall at Bury, for inspection; and, whether as regards the reputation of the competitors, the general excellence of the designs, or the artistic taste displayed in their arrangement, the Bury exhibition is entitled to precedence of similar collections of designs at Manchester, Leeds, and the other towns where steps have been taken with the same interesting object.

Bury, it is well known, is the birth-place of the late Sir Robert Peel. It is a manufacturing town in Lancashire, with a population, at the last census, of about 30,000 souls, and about eight miles distant from Manchester. Within a few days after the decease of their lamented townsman, subscriptions of upwards of £2500 were entered into for the erection of a Monument to his memory, and a Committee was appointed to carry out the project. In due time a circular was sent to various eminent artists, stating that it had been determined that the Monument should consist of a colossal bronze statue, upon a suitable pedestal, and that it should be erected in the old Market-place, being the most central part of the town.

The Committee then stated that they were desirous of receiving designs for the statue, not, however, intending to offer any premium, or to incur expense for models or drawings, and reserving to themselves the power of approving or rejecting any designs which might be submitted to them. The models were to be made to scale, and not to exceed four feet in height. The total cost of the design was not to exceed £2500, exclusive of the expenses of the erection and of the railing; and the designs were to be forwarded to the secretary on or before the 1st February, 1851.

By this date, several Models were received. They have been arranged in part of the Town-hall at Bury, a large range of building in the Italian palatial style, recently erected in the Market-place, after the designs of Mr. Sydney Smirke, A.R.A., which combines, in an eminent degree, beauty of design and internal convenience: for this edifice the town is indebted to the liberality of the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, the Lord of the Manor. It comprises the estate-offices of the noble Earl, a Court-house, town's offices, police-station, and a large banqueting-hall, 75 feet by 39 feet, with a vestibule.

The roof of the hall in which the greater part of the models are placed, is circular and panelled; and the light, coming from above, renders it admirably adapted for the exhibition of works of art. After ascending a handsome stone staircase, we enter the vestibule, which is draped with a heavy dark maroon cloth: here are placed designs for sculpture by Baily, R.A.; Macdowell, R.A.; E. A. Foley, and Jones; besides two architectural models. Passing through the vestibule to the hall, we find it divided by two high semicircular screens of the before-named maroon cloth, in front of which the remaining models are arranged in a crescent at each end. Our sketch will give an idea of this arrangement, which is very effective, and possesses the advantage of throwing an equal light on each design. The hall contains Models for sculpture by Baily, R.A.; Mac-

dowell, R.A.; J. H. Foley, A.R.A.; Calder Marshall, A.R.A.; Delmees, Durham, Duckett, E. A. Foley, Hogan, Jones, Lough, Manning, Milnes, Marochetti, Noble, Theed, Thomas, and Weekes; and two architectural designs by Duckett and Truett. The two last, together with



THE MOORLAND STREAM.—PAINTED BY H. JUTSUM.—EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

the two architectural models in the vestibule, by Bonner and Chatwood, are inadmissible according to the instructions of the committee. We observe, that, unlike the plan pursued elsewhere, there has been a perfect absence of anything like mystery in this competition. There are no notices attached to give a colour of secrecy, every artist's name being affixed to his work. We congratulate the inhabitants of Bury on the excellence of their exhibition, feeling assured that they will possess a statue which will be an ornament to the town, an honour to art, and a worthy memorial of departed greatness.

On Friday, the 14th, the Committee met, and, after a sedentary of several hours, the majority decided in favour of Mr. E. Baily, R.A.

We understand that a great many votes were recorded in favour of several other celebrated artists. We trust Mr. Baily will produce a Statue which shall not only be, as are all this eminent sculptor's works, beautiful and artistic in outline, but also characteristic of the individual, Sir Robert Peel.

We understand that Mr. Baily has been requested to meet the Committee at an early day, in order to receive his final instructions.

FINE ARTS.

THE MOORLAND STREAM. Painted by H. JUTSUM.

This picture is, in our estimation, Mr. Jutsum's most successful contribution to the Exhibition of the British Institution, noticed in our Journal of last week. In the Catalogue is appended to "The Moorland stream" the following beautifully descriptive epigraph:—

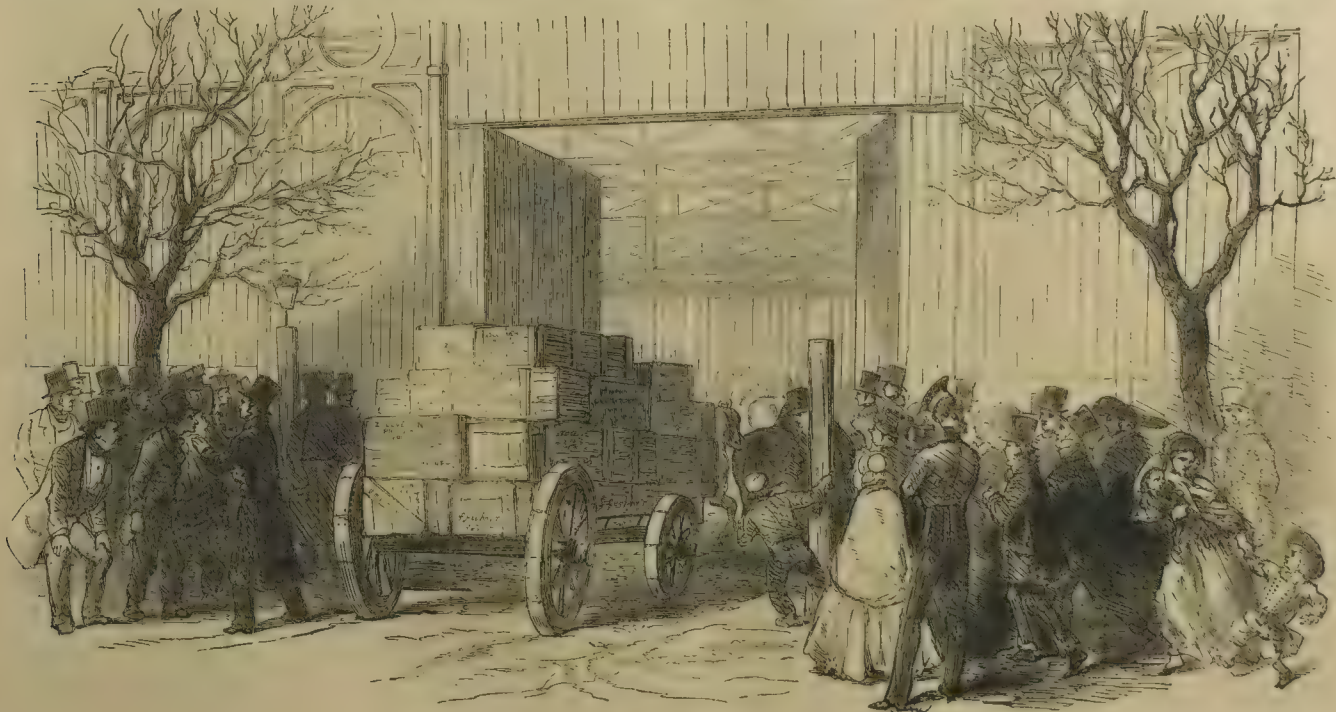
And where the murmuring brook,
Lulled by its own sweet music, seeks
repose
Amid the leafy shade; then swiftly
glides,
Spreading in sunbeams, o'er its pebbly
bed.

This is one of the best landscapes, if not the best, in the Exhibition: the transparency of the water, the beauty of the foliage and distance, and the clever handling throughout, combine to make this an exceedingly charming picture.

THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL
EXHIBITION.

We have this week engraved the entry of some of the productions of the Zollverein into the interior of the Crystal Palace, on Tuesday. Naturally, the curiosity of the loungers, who seem to inhabit the Park all day, was strongly excited by this arrival, and the police had much to do to prevent an ingress of sight-seers (foreign and English, who spring up at any given spot) to the grounds of the Exhibition. The waggoners proceed to the transept under the lynx-eyed authority of the Custom-house officials, where they are unpacked by the Sappers attached to the service of the Exhibition. The portals of the Building are watched with an Argus-like jealousy and strictness.

The Crystal Palace seems to increase in favour with the Court and the people. On Sunday last, between the hours of two and four, a competent statistician has declared that a mass of her Majesty's large subjects was passing and repassing the south transept window at the rate of between 240 and 250 persons per minute, or about 14,000 to 15,000 per hour. On Saturday the Prince Consort conducted the Comtesse de Neully (ex-Queen of the French), the Duke and Duchess de Nemours, and suite over the interior of the Building. The illustrious visitors were especially interested in the various arrangements. The



RECEPTION OF GOODS AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING, IN HYDE PARK.



MARSHALL'S MOVING PANORAMA OF A TOUR THROUGH EUROPE.—"DEPARTURE OF THE 'JOHN BULL' STEAMER."—EXHIBITED IN THE CONCERT-ROOM OF HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The second scene presents the route from Rome to Mont Blanc, in Switzerland. The Eternal City blazes on the view; then Venice, Lago Maggiore, Monte Ross, Jaxes, Gondo, the Simplon, Interlaken, the Jungfrau, the Wetterhorn, Lauterbrunnen, Geneva, Montanvert, and the Mer de Glace, lead to the very foot of Mont Blanc. This chain of Alpine and Swiss landscape—in its glory and gloom, with its snow-storm and its avalanche, its pastoral beauty, its lakes and canals, its gondolas and still life, its bustle and its desolation—all produce an alternation of surprises that must afford a visitor the most exquisite delight.

The third route is occupied with the Rhine scenery from Bingen to Cologne. It were impossible to describe, within reasonable compass, the objects that in this series crowd upon the eye. Nature and art, river and village, rock and fastness, sky and tower, wave and steamer, all, successively or in combination, press upon the view, while the well-known associations linked with each spot fill the mind with pleasant fancies.

For these delightful pictures the public has to be grateful to Mr. Marshall, whose execution of them is as admirable as the scenes themselves are memorable. The exhibition is accompanied by descriptive notices, delivered by Mr. W. S. Woodin.

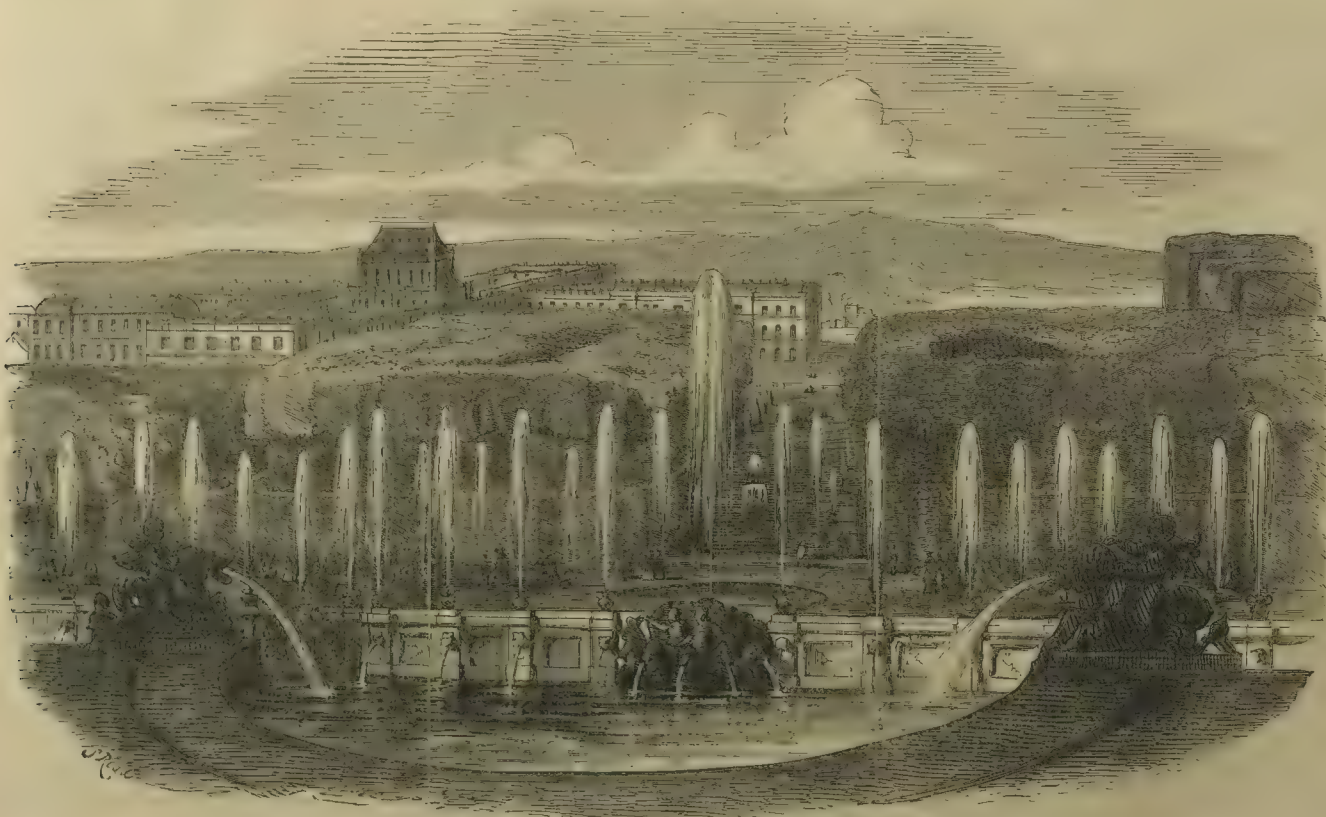
M. CAMBON'S PANORAMA OF VERSAILLES.

M. C. Cambon is the celebrated *artiste* of the Grand National Opera of Paris, some of the most splendid scenes having been painted by him—such as the superb ball-room scene in "Gustavus III.," the scenery of "Guido and Ginevra," "Le Diable Boiteux," "La Jolie Fille de Gand," and "The Huguenots." He takes credit, also, for the Coronation scene in the fourth act of "The Prophet," and the scenes in Auber's last opera, "L'Enfant Prodigue." Not content with these laurels, the biographical notice which precedes the description of the present panorama, states that the "Opéra Comique, also, is indebted to the renowned artist for the scenery of several of its operas, among which may be reckoned 'The Valley of Andorre,' 'La Dame de Pique,' &c.," and that "the best fairy pieces of the National Circus Theatre have been painted by him; and he has also decorated the magnificent theatres of Gand and Antwerp, as well as the elegant and rich mansion of Anthony de Rothschild, in London."

Such are the claims of M. C. Cambon, whose panorama of Paris, St. Cloud, and Versailles was opened to the public in Leicester-square (Lin-

wood Gallery) on Friday last. The pictures are worthy of his reputation. They consist of three *tableaux*, illustrating the beginning, middle, and end of the series; the last realising the Grand Water-works of the Gardens of Versailles, represented with real water; the other two being the Interior of Notre Dame, and a View of Paris taken from the Pont des Arts, one of the bridges across the Seine. These *tableaux* are all most effectively executed.

The pictures consist of the Triumphal Arch de l'Etoile, Champs Elysées, le Cirque National, l'Elysée Bourbon, Place de la Concorde, the Admiralty, la Madeleine, Tuilleries, Garden, Colonne and Place Vendôme, Tuilleries Palace, Place du Carrousel, the Triumphal Arch of the Carrousel, the Seine, the quays, the Louvre, with its Gallery, the Pont Neuf, a distant view of the towers of Notre Dame, the village and palace of Meudon, St. Cloud, the Cascade, Diogenes' Lantern, and Versailles. All are deserving of praise for their accuracy and picturesque effect. The scenes must be familiar to a large number of the spectators, who will, doubtless, appreciate both attributes; though it remains to be proved whether our sight-seeing public will prefer these representations to those less known and more distant.



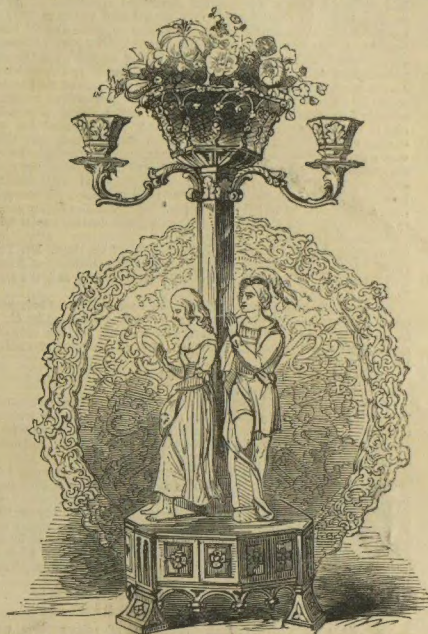
CAMBON'S MOVING PANORAMA.—"THE FOUNTAINS AT VERSAILLES."—EXHIBITED AT THE LINWOOD GALLERY, LEICESTER-SQUARE

tion, or illustrated with a poetic spirit. As a spectacle, we must pronounce it completely successful.

WIDENING OF CHANCERY-LANE.—DINNER TO MR. J. R. TAYLOR.

ON Tuesday a dinner was given, at the George and Blue Boar, Holborn, to Mr. J. R. Taylor, on the occasion of presenting that gentleman with a testimonial for his services in attempting to procure the widening of the north end of Chancery-lane; Sir James Duke, Bart., M.P., in the chair. The guests numbered between 80 and 90 gentlemen; and amongst them were many influential inhabitants of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. The testimonial prepared for the occasion consisted of a silver salver and *epigramme*, each bearing an appropriate inscription.

The chairman, in presenting these objects to Mr. Taylor, observed that it did not require any eulogy from him (Sir James Duke) to recommend to their notice a gentleman who had lived amongst them for a quarter of a century, and who, during that time, had cultivated the good opinion of the great body of his neighbours. In alluding to the conduct of Mr. Taylor on a recent occasion, in his spirited endeavour to effect an important public improvement by the widening of Chancery-lane, he (Sir J. Duke) would only express his regret that the great metropolis should not have found means to assist a public-spirited private citizen in such an undertaking. (Hear, hear.) It was one of those



TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO MR. J. R. TAYLOR, ON TUESDAY.

improvements which were not only greatly required, but which might have been effected at a comparatively trifling expense. It was, therefore, much to be regretted that an application was not made to Government to assist Mr. Taylor in his endeavour to accomplish so important an object. It appeared that the same improvement might still be effected, but at a much greater expense than was originally suggested, and he trusted that the public would insist upon its being carried out. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Taylor had received the present token of esteem from them not only through his conduct in this particular instance, but from the desire they all felt to announce to him their general esteem for his private worth as well as his public usefulness. The exertions he had made during a period of twenty-five years to promote the welfare and happiness of his fellow-citizens were abundantly sufficient to entitle him to public



SCENE THE LAST, FROM THE NEW DRAMA OF "SIXTUS V.," AT THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

THE practice of preferring translated to original pieces is extending on the English stage. On Monday night a version of one of the dramas of the Théâtre Historique, in seven *tableaux*, was ventured on these boards. The adapter for the occasion was Mr. Dion Bourcicault, who, in the manipulation of this historical romance, has shown his usual tact and talent, except that he has studiously abstained from throwing any brilliancy into the dialogue, either in the form of wit or poetry. The main purpose has evidently been to exhibit the action in *tableaux*, and to make the writing subordinate to the painting and the *pose plastique*. This end has been effectually accomplished.

The anecdote of Sixtus V., on which the plot of the play is made to turn, is only a tradition. Rankin tells us that there is no historical basis for it; nevertheless, as a tradititious fiction, it typifies the character of the reforming Pontiff. The Cardinal Montalto is, in this drama, made the "cloak-enveloped" providence of a love tale. One Adrien Peretti (Mr. Leigh Murray) has dared to aspire to the hand of Bianca Colonna (Miss Louisa Howard); but he is scorned by her father and brother, the Count Colonna (Mr. Norton), and Fabio (Mr. W. Farren, jun.). Encouraged by a rough, good-natured friend, Hugo, surnamed the "delicate" (Mr. Henry Farren), Adrien perseveres in his suit, and, in fact, succeeds in getting married by one Anselmo, a mysterious monk, really the Cardinal himself in disguise. But the family of the bride are in pursuit, and a conflict ensues, in which Fabio is slain. The Countess Colonna (Mrs. Leigh Murray), on seeing the corpse of her son, prostrates herself on the earth; but the stern Count secures his disobedient daughter. The group we have indicated forms the subject of the third *tableau*, and is, to our mind, the most original of the seven. It concludes the second act with great applause.

Confined in the convent of Ave Maria, Bianca is compelled, notwithstanding the avowal of her marriage, to take the veil. While the ceremony is being performed, her husband and his friend enter; the former rushes to the altar, and tears the veil from the countenance of his wife. Great is the pious horror of the multitude. Crowds rush down the steps, and all is confusion. Adrien, however, escapes. His bride yet remains in the power of his enemies. She is confined in the abbey of St. Ursula. But he and his friend engage the Zingari in their cause, get into the abbey, make the guard drunk, penetrate to the crypt, and find Bianca apparently dead, laid out on a tomb. She revives, but the Abbess appears; and, though the Zingari effect an entrance into the chapel, and the Cardinal claims the accused for the Inquisition, the victim still remains in the power of her tormentors. But on the morrow the scene changes. Montalto has made his way to Rome; the conclave sits for the election of Pope; the judgment against Bianca proceeds; the Countess moves heaven and earth for her safety, but all in vain, until the decrepid, infirm old man is declared the Pope elect. What Montalto could not do with all his might, Pope Sixtus V. can effect with a word. Assuming the erect attitude, the new Pontiff shows himself a strong and determined man; dissolves the convent of St. Ursula, and restores the lovers to each other.

Mr. Farren, as Montalto, had a character especially suited to his powers and style of acting. Mr. Murray was graceful and valiant in his bearing; and Mrs. Murray, as the Countess, exhibited more force of passion than we had expected; in some of the situations she was really great. To Mr. H. Farren, also, we must award considerable merit for his Hugo; it was a dashing and effective performance. The scenery (painted by Mr. Shalders) was beautiful; and all the appointments were exceedingly rich. Our satisfaction with the result of the performance would, however, have been greater, had the piece been a native produc-



RECEPTION OF A MONSTER RAILWAY BAR, AT PORT TALBOT, GLAMORGANSHIRE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

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